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29 July 1977

TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 312

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DRUG SUPPRESSION CAMPAIGN "SKY PHASE III" LAUDED

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 2 Jul 77 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Operation Roaring Sky Phase III"]

[Text] Speaking to the medley of foreign military attaches, local newsmen and foreign correspondents who visited the insurgents' opium refineries captured by the Tatmadaw, deputy commander of the eastern command Col Maung Maung who headed Operation Roaring Sky Phase III explained that the purpose of the operation was to bring about destruction of narcotic drugs which if allowed to proliferate unchecked could ultimately bring about the extinction of the entire human race.

To annihilate the insurgents who were engaged in the manufacture of drugs and thereby making fortunes out of the trade, a two-pronged offensive was launched against the insurgent camps and refineries at Man Tung, Kuang Mai Hung, Na Mung and Mai Aw beginning 17 June.

The two columns which set out were intercepted by insurgent forces a number of times on the march, but in the end the objectives were gained with the loss of one life against seven insurgents killed. Altogether five insurgent opium refineries were captured and destroyed.

The suppression of opium production and refining is a job which Burma has been doing with full consciousness of its responsibilities towards humanity as a whole. In so doing we also have the double responsibility of taking active measures against elements which are confirmed in their enmity towards the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and the working people.

This is a job which has to be done and the Tatmadaw [the armed forces] has never been tardy or slow in getting any job done no matter how dangerous or difficult it may be. No enemy of the people within our borders can rest safe or find sanctuary for long with the ever-vigilant Tatmadaw on guard. No matter how difficult the terrain or seemingly inaccessible the region, the Tatmadaw will be there to wipe out all those whose activities are against the interests of the state and the working people.

But firm as we are in our actions against such elements within our borders, we place great value on maintaining friendship and mutual understanding with all other nations.

During Operation Roaring Sky Phase III, 3 Thai officers and 27 other ranks were found at Kuang Mai Hung Camp in Mong Mau area together with a helicopter of the Thai border police. For the sake of friendly relations, the Thai personnel and the helicopter have been handed back to the Thai authorities so that investigation may be made and proper action carried out by the Thai Government against those who intruded into Burma.

Operation Roaring Sky Phase III represents in microcosm the way in which we get things done in Burma in our fight against the worldwide narcotics threat. It also demonstrates our unflagging willingness to work with neighbor nations in full mutual understanding and friendly cooperation.

CSO: 5300

DRUG SMUGGLING IN ARAKAN STATE VICTIMIZES PEASANTS

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 27 Jun 77 p 4 BK

[Article by San Shwe Moe: "And Across the Yoma Mountain Range Comes Heroin"]

[Summary] The all-weather Prome-Taunggok Road, constructed in 1752 and renovated in later years, is 102 miles long. Smugglers can always be seen traveling on this road.

"Previously, ordinary smugglers used this road to transport bulky black market goods. Now, goods which are light, yet profitable--narcotic drugs, opium and heroin--are being transported. From the Okshit stopover station, various methods--cars or feet--are used to transport these drugs. This opium and heroin is distributed by land and water routes from Taunggok to Sandoway and Gwa in southern Arakan state, to Minbya, Kyauktaw and Akyab in the northern part, and to Kyaukpyu, Manaung, Yanbye and Sané in the central regions.

"Narcotic drugs are smuggled wrapped in plastic bags and hidden among ripe tamarind seeds. Opium smugglers from Prome pose as cattle traders when transporting their goods. There have also been instances in which Arakan nationals seeking jobs around Prome come to know and are exploited by these opium smugglers. They are used as opium and heroin carriers and are paid for their work. If the carriers return the proper amount of money after the drugs are sold or if they sell the drugs at the price they are asked to, bonuses are given to them.

"Because of narcotic drug usage, fishermen and naive peasants in Arakan state have become addicts; the number is rising." This has resulted in loss of manpower and a rise in crime and has affected the social, education and economic sectors. "Some people have stopped working as fishermen and are taking up an easier mode of earning a living--narcotics smuggling. They carry heroin in cigarette packets and in cardboard boxes shaped like books.

"Narcotic drugs sent close to the Indian border fetch good prices. It was learned that addicts near the Indian border prefer marihuana above anything else.

"The time has come for the Arakanese people to be loyal and to realize their duty to actively cooperate with the authorities concerned to suppress the threat of narcotic drugs which have been transported across the Yoma mountain range."

BURMA

TROOPS DESTROY OPIUM REFINERY OF LOIMAW INSURGENTS

Equipment, Opium Seized

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Jul 77 BK

[Text] At 1430 on 30 June, a column of the 16th Infantry Regiment discovered an opium refinery belonging to the Loimaw insurgent group constructed in a gully near the Man Ton Camp. The refinery consisted of six huts for people, four stables for mules and a warehouse for storing caustic lime powder. Also found at the place were ovens for refining opium, 25 4-gallon gasoline tins, 19 empty 44-gallon drums, 2 44-gallon drums contained heavy opium solution, 1 44-gallon drum containing No 2 heroin, 12 4-gallon tins of methylated spirit and big cauldrons used in refining opium.

On 1 July, 12 more 44-gallon drums of concentrated heroin solution were found. They had been buried by the insurgents. The Man Ton Camp was attacked and occupied by our forces on 24 June and the armed forces are searching the area for buried opium equipment and chemicals used for refining opium.

Photos of Chemicals, Weapons

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 1 Jul 77 p 1 BK

[Photo Captions]



Picture shows various chemicals used in refining heroin and smuggled goods which were seized from the insurgents at Man Ton Camp.
(News Agency of Burma)



Picture shows chemicals used in refining heroin and assorted weapons and ammunition captured from the insurgents' Kuang Mai Hung opium refinery camp by the army. Some arms and ammunition belonging to the Thai armed forces, who had intruded into Burmese territory, are also shown in the picture.

BURMA

BRIEFS

LASHIO SEARCH PARTY--Lashio, 4 July--Acting on information from the people, ward councillors headed by Township People's Council Chairman U Aung Tun Thein, people's militia, customs officers and a police force headed by Police Station No 1 Officer U Yin Kyi, at 0200 today raided the residence of Yan Li Sein at 6th zone, ward No 5 of Lashio. A search under an attic stairway on the left side of the bedroom revealed a false compartment made of plywood. In the compartment were 40 packages of brown heroin weighing 24 viss [1 viss equals 3.6 pounds] and worth about 200,000 kyats. Yan Li Sein was charged by the police under section 6 (B) of the narcotic drugs law. Investigations are also underway to expose his contacts. [Text] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 8 Jul 77 p 5 BK]

HEROIN SEIZED IN EAST MERGUI--Tenasserim, 5 July--Under arrangements by the East Mergui Township People's Council, people's councillors from Mergui Kangaung and Anaukle wards, with help from the police force, at 1530 yesterday raided the residence of Maung San Win in Phaya Zayat Street of Anaukle ward. Found from the house were 14 small packets of (kingpetch), also known as No 3 and 4 heroin, each packet weighing about 6 ywes [1 ywe equals 0.0003 pounds]. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 11 Jul 77 p 5 BK]

HEROIN POSSESSOR IN RANGOON--Rangoon, 11 July--A judges committee, comprising members U Tin Hlaing and U Tin Maung and chaired by Mingala-Taungnyunt Railways Court Chairman U Khin Maung Gyi, handed down a 10-year hard labor jail term to Khin Maung Aw, 29, for possession of three packets of heroin each worth 20 kyats. The sentence was under "Operation Galon" [crime suppression drive]. The case was brought to trial after subinspector U Khin Maung Hla and a party from the Mingala-Taungnyunt Police Station, on a crime prevention patrol, found a suspicious-looking Khin Maung Aw in front of Government Primary School No 2 on Theinbyu Road. A search revealed three packets of heroin each worth 20 kyats hidden in a matchbox. Khin Maung Aw was then charged under section 6 (B) [of the Narcotics Drugs Law]. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 12 Jul 77 p 7 BK]

MOULMEIN POLICE CRACK DOWN--Martaban, 5 July--Acting on information, the Moulmein city crime suppression squad, with help from ward councillors,

today searched house No 4 of Mida Kwin Ward, and later arrested heroin addict Habib after finding a small packet of heroin, a penicillin bottle containing heroin, two hypodermic syringes and two hypodermic needles. Similarly, Mupon police yesterday arrested six youths smoking marihuana, together with marihuana smoking equipment, while they were smoking near a bridge in Maung Ngan southern road. Meantime, Aung Aung, a pickpocket was also arrested for possessing a small amount of heroin. He was searched after being caught robbing a bus passenger. [Summary] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 9 Jul 77 p 5 BK]

HEROIN PEDDLER, ADDICT--Rangoon, 4 Jul--Acting on information supplied by the working people, an anti-vice team comprising Latha Township People's Council Executive Committee member U Thaung, police sub-inspector U Hla Myint Lwin and ward people's councillors searched the apartment room (ground floor) at No 102, 21st Street, Latha Township, yesterday evening and seized packets of heroin and hypodermic syringes worth more than K 1,300. The owner of the apartment room Kinfu alias Ba Thein (19) was arrested under sections 6 (B)/10 (B)/14(D) of the narcotic drugs law for possession, trafficking and using of narcotic drugs and under section 33 (A) of the Excise Act. The seizure included 19 packets of heroin each worth K 35, a packet of heroin worth K 70 and a bottle of heroin worth K 600. Hypodermic syringes were also seized. The police found hypodermic needle marks on the youth's body, apparently as a result of injection of heroin. Similarly, a police party seized two packets of heroin valued at K 70 from Maung Kyaw Kyaw Taik (26) of building No 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha, at the corner of 22nd and Canal Streets. Action is being taken against Kyaw Kyaw Taik under sections 6(B)/14(D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 6 Jul 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

PRIME MINISTER DECLARES WAR AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Kuala Lumpur THE NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Jul 77 p 3 BK

[By Ruhanie Ahmad]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Saturday--Datuk Hussein Bin Onn today declared a total war against drug abuse, saying that if it were not eliminated, it could endanger the national security, weaken the economy and destroy the people's lives and aspirations.

The prime minister said drug abuse in Malaysia was proof of the nation's own weakness. He could not accept the excuse that it was a common phenomenon in a developing country.

"Therefore, it is important for us to pool our resources and cooperate to overcome this major problem," he added at the launching of a national association against drug abuse (PEMANDAM) lottery here.

He urged PEMANDAM to join hands with the government and organise all-out campaigns against drug abuse.

"These should be done on the scale of our national language campaigns a few years ago. It would be one of the best ways to approach our total war against drugs," he added.

Datuk Hussein reminded the people that drug abuse, if not eliminated, could cause major problems for the country.

He said Malaysia was now implementing the third Malaysia plan and new economic policy to guarantee unity, security and prosperity in the country.

"We obviously would not like to see our efforts thwarted by a drug problem," he added.

He said, however, that although the problem of drug abuse was serious, it was under control.

The government, he added, believed that preventive measures including treatment, rehabilitation and research should be on a par with enforcement activities.

"Whether or not drug addiction will decrease depends on the supply of drugs. We can overcome drug addiction by cutting off the drug supply lines totally and see that all entry points into Malaysia including border areas, ports and airports are tightly controlled and supervised," he added.

He said the government will step up its enforcement efforts by intensifying patrols, investigation and supervision of activities at entry points.

It would also set up branches of the National Narcotics Bureau in Kelantan and Perak.

The police and armed forces would also play more effective roles to destroy drug supply lines in the country.

He stressed the need for public cooperation in these activities.

Datuk Hussein said Malaysia was within the circle of the regional and international drug routes. It would, therefore, not be easy to wipe out drug trafficking without the support of the people.

"But if we can prevent drug abuse from spreading further and rehabilitate the addicts and instill in them and the public an antidrug attitude, drugs will not be able to find a market in Malaysia," he added.

Datuk Hussein said antidrug programmes should be conducted seriously through schemes which will project the principles of Rukunegara [national ideology].

Earlier, Deputy Law Minister Encik Rais Yatim said the police, customs and the National Narcotics Bureau had scored "brilliant successes" in their enforcement activities.

Encik Rais, who is also PEMANDAM president, said there were two major problems of drug addiction today--the return to drug-taking by cured addicts, and the possibility of death caused by consuming adulterated drugs as was happening in the West.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

TWO JAILED FOR HEROIN--The session's court in Kuala Lumpur today jailed a hawker, (Chong Kim Jon), for 3 years after he pleaded guilty to possessing 3.97 grams of heroin. The same court sentenced a painter to 8 months jail for being in possession of 18 tubes of heroin. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Jul 77 BK]

VENDOR JAILED FOR HEROIN--Kuala Lumpur, Wed--S. Subramaniam, 35, was today sentenced to 2 years and 9 months' jail for having 3.5 grams of heroin. Subramaniam, a Roti-Canai seller, was found guilty of having the heroin at a stall in Jalan Ipoh on 31 January. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Jun 77 p 14 BK]

POLICE BREAKUP HEROIN PARTY--Kuala Lumpur, Mon--Police broke up a pot party at a house in Kampung Periok, off Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, here this afternoon and arrested eight suspect drug addicts. One of the suspects, who were all high on drugs, is believed to be a drug pusher. The police later seized five tubes of heroin, four of which were found on one of the suspects. The commander of "A" Division, Deputy Supt Syed Meir W. al-Habshi, said: "Following a tip-off, we laid an ambush near a house for several hours. At about 2:45 pm the men closed in and surprised eight men. None of them made any attempt to escape as they were already high on drugs." Syed Meir said: "We want to get rid of the favourite haunts of drug addicts." [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jul 77 p 4 BK]

ARREST OF DRUG TRAFFICKER--Klang, Mon--Police arrested a suspected drug trafficker in the courthouse here today. Klang OCPO [Officer in charge, police department] Supt Yahaya Bin Isa, said the 49-year-old man was attending a drug trial when the arrest was made. Supt Yahaya said the police had been looking for the suspect since a police party led by Probationary Inspector Wong Siew Chun found 394.4 gm of heroin sewn into two cotton pillows at a wooden house in Port Klang on 13 June. Police believed the man was responsible for the distribution of a large quantity of drugs in the Port Klang and Klang area. They believe they have crippled a second big drug distribution centre in Port Klang this month. Supt Yahaya said that two detectives

ambushed a suspected drug pusher and seized 60 small packets of morphine in Jalan Goh Hock Huat last Saturday. He said the drugs were found in a plastic bag tucked in the man's suspender band. The man was taken to the police station for questioning. So far this year, Klang Police had arrested 111 drug pushers and addicts, said Supt Yahaya. Fifty-four were detained in the Port Klang area, 50 in Klang, 4 in Shah Alam, 2 in Pandamaran and 1 in Pulau Ketam. The biggest police success against drug abuse here this year was on 2 June when a police party led by Probationary Inspector Wong seized 571.9 gm of heroin and 295.3 gm of morphine and arrested a suspected drug distributor in a house in Port Klang. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jun 77 p 4 BK]

ARREST OF HEROIN PUSHER--Penang, Monday--Police arrested a 36-year-old suspected drug pusher and found 60 gm of heroin in a house at Dato Koyah Road here on Saturday. Police raided the house at about 1:40 pm. The suspect was found asleep. The heroin was found in seven plastic bags hidden in the attic. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jul 77 p 4 BK]

SUSPECTED HEROIN PUSHERS, ADDICTS--Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.--City police have arrested 23 suspected drug pushers and addicts, some of whom are believed to be government employees in Gombak and Selayang, over the past 24 hours. Police also seized 88 tubes of heroin which could provide 750 shots. Acting on information, members of the city's "Flying Squad" raided a suspected drug haunt in a fruit plantation near Greenwood Park at 6.30 a.m. yesterday. They detained three youths and seized four tubes of heroin. After interrogation, the police went to Taman Selayang where another youth was picked up, and five tubes of heroin were found. Later they arrested a fifth suspect, believed to be a trafficker, at a sundry shop in Kampung Nakhoda in Selayang and seized four tubes of heroin and \$360. A youth who tried to flee from a nearby house was arrested and 35 tubes of heroin seized. Police also rounded up eight other youths in the area. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Jul 77 p 11 BK]

DRUG ADDICT PLEADS GUILTY--Penang, Fri.--A drug addict who had voluntarily gone to the Bukit Mertajam Drug Rehabilitation Center for treatment was bound over in \$500 for 1 year by the sessions court here today for a drug offense. Former petrol pump attendant Zamsuri Bin Jalaluddin, 20, pleaded guilty to having a vial and a small packet of heroin at Kampung Sungei Nibong at 4 p.m. on 30 April last year. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Jul 77 p 9 BK]

DRUG ARREST FIGURES--The deputy law minister, Encik Rais Yatim, said a total of 6,667 persons had been arrested for offenses under the dangerous drug ordinance from January last year to the end of March this year. Of the total, 3,590 were Chinese, 2,149 Malay, 853 Indian, 50 others and 25 foreigners. Encik Rais said the main aim of the drug smugglers and pushers was to make money. Up to May this year one person was sentenced to death, while eight others were given life sentences. [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 14 Jul 77 BK]

THREE HELD FOR HEROIN TRAFFICKING

Taipei CHINA POST in English 18 Jun 77 p 12

[Text]

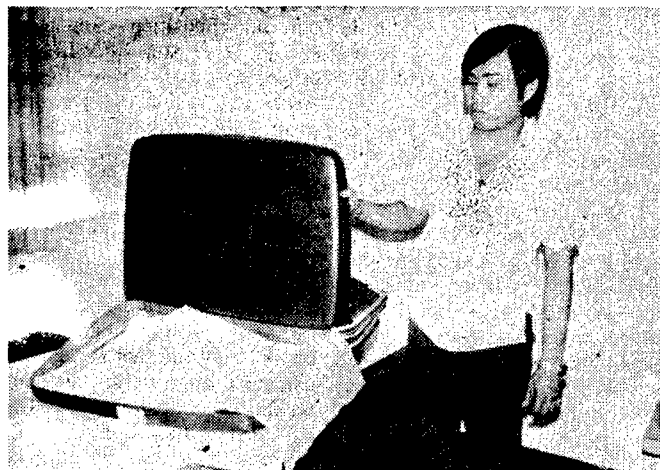
Three overseas Chinese were arrested after agents seized 8.3 pounds of heroin, worth over NT\$50 million (about US\$1.3 million) in a hotel room, acting on a tipoff.

The Bureau of Investigation reported yesterday that the three arrested, two Singapore overseas Chinese and a Malaysian overseas Chinese, are believed to be members of an international smuggling ring.

Narcotics agents found the drug contained in a specially made suitcase in the Taipei hotel room of Choo Peck-seng, 23, during a raid and later arrested another man, Ling Kong-sing, 24.

Another Singapore Chinese Pan Fay-geok, 42, was arrested at Taipei Airport Thursday afternoon when he arrived in Taipei, for involvement in the trafficking.

The Bureau of Investigation reported yesterday that investigations into the smuggling began early this month after information supplied by an international organization that an international smuggling ring was planning to smuggle drugs into the country from Southeast Asia.



Agents found Choo, who arrived in Taipei on June 11, and Lin who entered the country four days later, were on the suspect list.

The bureau reported that the two had contacted their organization in Singapore after their arrival, and on Thursday Pan fled to Taipei from Singapore.

The seizure yesterday is the second biggest haul in Taiwan, following a 11.5 pounds heroin haul in May 1972.

An NT\$50,000 award was presented to the agents who participated in the mission by the Bureau of Investigation for their outstanding work in breaking up the smuggling.



Choo
Peck-seng



Pan
Fay-geok

SINGAPORE

BRIEFS

MAN FINED FOR HEROIN--A man was fined a total of \$2,700 by a magistrate yesterday for having heroin and consuming morphine. Tan Sin Huat, 26, was fined \$750 on each of the two charges of having 0.07 grams of heroin and consuming morphine at St. Francis Road on June 12. He was also fined \$600 on each of two charges of having 0.22 grams of the same drug and consuming morphine on May 29 at the same place. [Text] [Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Jul 77 p 8 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI POLICE OFFICIAL REVIEWS DRUG ARREST FIGURES FOR 1977

Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 17 Jul 77 BK

[Statement by acting metropolitan police commissioner Pol Maj Gen Suwan Rattanachun--date not given--recorded]

[Text] When I was first assigned to this temporary post, I instructed Pol Maj Gen Sa-ne Sitthiphan, the deputy metropolitan police commissioner, to implement the old policy regarding suppression and prevention of narcotics which, I feel, is still effective.

The statistics on the arrest of traffickers and addicts during the past 6 months are as follows:

In January, there were 63 cases of narcotics trafficking with 83 arrests, 44 cases of addiction with 100 arrests and 1,324 cases of possession with 1,343 arrests.

In February, there were 58 cases of narcotics trafficking with 65 arrests, 37 cases of addiction with 71 arrests and 1,028 cases of possession with 1,038 arrests.

In March, there were 65 cases of narcotics trafficking with 80 arrests, 21 cases of addiction with 46 arrests and 993 cases of possession with 1,000 arrests.

In April, there were 43 cases of narcotics trafficking with 51 arrests, 11 cases of addiction with 25 arrests and 728 cases of possession with 734 arrests.

In May, there were 64 cases of narcotics trafficking with 82 arrests, 14 cases of addiction with 37 arrests and 1,104 cases of possession with 1,117 arrests.

In June, there were 64 cases of narcotics trafficking with 72 arrests, 33 cases of addiction with 64 arrests and 1,015 cases of possession with 1,016 arrests.

During the past 6 months, there were 357 cases of narcotics trafficking with 433 arrests, 160 cases of addiction with 343 arrests and 6,192 cases of possession with 6,248 arrests.

THAILAND

BANGKOK PAPER EXAMINES NARCOTICS BOARD'S BUDGET ALLOCATION

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 18 Jul 77 pp 1, 12 BK

[Text] At least 100,000 students and members of the public will undergo drug-detecting urine tests in the next fiscal year.

This is part of the programmes proposed for fiscal year 1978 beginning October of the National Narcotic Prevention Board (NNPB) as stipulated in budget documents released this week.

The NNPB, chaired by Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian, appear in the budget book for the first time this year, with a total proposed budget of 24.9 million baht, about half of which will be spent on investigative and suppression work against drug trafficking, trading and abuse.

The board plans to recruit at least 106 new personnel to supplement the current staff to carry out its wideranging activities which include cooperation with the UN, ASEAN, Colombo Plan, Interpol and foreign organizations related to anti-narcotic activities.

About 5 million baht has been sought for next year's plan to urge hilltribes in the north to plant substitute crops to replace opium.

About 12.5 million baht has been sought for investigative and suppression work against drug offenders while 2.3 million baht will be spent for publicizing and propagating the danger of drug abuse.

Part of the 4.9 million baht proposed "administrative budget" will be spent on compiling the list of "producers, traffickers and users of narcotics throughout the country," according to budget documents.

Thailand will host a meeting of anti-narcotics experts within the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN), later this year.

Part of the budget will also be used to publish a "quarterly bulletin" to report on progress and activities of Thailand's anti-narcotics activities.

According to the board's proposed scheme of work for the new fiscal year, a [words garbled] be set up to comprise representatives from the police department, customs department, food and drugs administration board and the NNPB to suppress narcotic offenders.

An independent body under the NNPB will also be established to investigate and suppress narcotic offenders.

NNPB has also sought a "secret fund" of 1 million baht for its next year's operations.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THAI PAPER WANTS THAI-BURMESE COOPERATION IN ANTI-DRUG DRIVE

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 19 Jul 77 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "High Time for Thai-Burmese Anti-Drug Drive"]

[Text] Both the Thai and Burmese governments have greatly improved their methods in their drive against narcotics traffickers. Until recently the prize catch among narcotics dealers has been Lo Hsing Han, a Burmese of Chinese ethnic origin who was allegedly the kingpin of drug traffic in the Golden Triangle. He was deported to Burma where he was tried and executed.

The arrest of Lao Fan last Thursday, with heroin in his possession after police had painstakingly gathered evidence against him, bids fair to equal the importance of the capture of Lo. While the arrest of Lao Fan himself is highly valuable in the government's drive against narcotics trading, what he has revealed during interrogation could prove extremely important.

He has revealed to the police the names of six important traders in narcotics and if they are captured an important part of the clandestine drug ring in the Golden Triangle would be smashed. Lao Fan has also indicated that the six traffickers are located along the Thai-Burma border which is somewhat ill-defined and which is crossed from one side to the other with impunity.

For all we know these six named by Lao Fan have already crossed into Burma but that again will not be so easy for the traffickers because the Burmese Army is mounting a vigilant operation against them at the present time. But as experienced persons who have used both countries for their nefarious trade, it is quite possible they can slither from one side to the other to escape detection.

Since both the Thai and the Burmese governments at present are totally devoted to the eradication of trafficking in narcotics, it would be in order for the government in Bangkok to approach Rangoon and set up some joint operations. The pooling of information gathered and the working together of the antinarcotics forces of both countries would go a long way to eliminate the notoriety which the Golden Triangle has received all over the world.

The cooperation which Thailand has with Malaysia in eliminating communist insurgency along the southern border could serve as a model. The anti-insurgency forces of both Thailand and Malaysia have done splendid jobs in their first two drives and are doing the same with the third joint operation now in progress.

Since Burma and Thailand are friendly countries there should be no problem in staging periodic antinarcotics drives. We say periodic, because it is essential to have more than one operation. The first one may flush out the drug traders but considering how lucrative their business is they are bound to return to their trade again. But if continuous pressure is kept on them by joint operations, it is quite possible to eliminate the large-scale trafficking for which most Western countries blame the Golden Triangle.

It is high time for the Thai Government to approach Rangoon so that some effective action can be taken jointly without both countries working in water-tight compartments.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

PAPER REPORTS BURMESE SMASHING HEROIN CAMPS NEAR BORDER

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Jul 77 p 1 BK

[Text] After fierce clashes with Shan insurgents near the Thai border at Mae Hong Son, Burmese Government troops have destroyed five heroin factories and seized 55 kilogrammes of heroin, according to official reports from Rangoon.

Thai Border Patrol troops have been assigned to reinforce the border at Mae Hong Son to prevent the Burmese rebels from fleeing across the border with whatever narcotics they have managed to recover.

The fierce fighting between the Burmese Government troops and the Shan rebels was in the same region where 27 Thai paratroopers were stranded for almost a week when they were accidentally put down inside Burmese territory. The paratroopers and a Bell helicopter were returned to Thailand on Thursday.

According to reports from Rangoon the Burmese Government troops were involved in five major clashes with the Shan as they moved in to try and knock out the opium processing camps near the Thai border.

The first major attack took place on June 23 when camps at Kuang Mai Hung Village were seized. Another camp at Na Mon Long, less than 1 kilometre from the Thai-Burmese border was seized on the following day. The camp was reported to be well organised with 120 buildings including a hospital and a large heroin refinery.

The rebels hid chemicals and refined opium underground before fleeing. Burmese Government troops have reportedly been ordered to stay in the area to try and dig out the drugs. The rugged terrain in the region makes this a considerable task.

The Shan are fighting for autonomy in their home regions, but clashes often involve opium politics and production.

According to field reports, in addition to clashes with the Shan the 4,000-strong Burmese Government forces are also fighting the combined

ranks of the Pa-o, Wa, Kachin and Karen minority groups as well as remnants of the 93d Kuomintang Division under command of Lt Col Pan Ong of the Shan state army.

The battle front reportedly stretches many kilometres across the mountains. The minority groups are said to be armed with sophisticated weapons including M16 and HK-33 assault rifles, recoilless cannons, 60mm and 81mm mortars. The Burmese troops have 75mm, 81mm and 105mm artillery pieces.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

'BANGKOK POST' ON SUCCESS OF MONK'S DRUG TREATMENT CENTER

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jul 77 pp 1, 3 BK

[Text] Hilltribe opium planters and a nephew of former "opium king" Lo Hsing Han have received treatment for narcotics addiction from Phra [monk] Chamrun Panchant, the Magsaysay Award winning abbot, at his monastery, Wat [temple] Thamkrabok, in Saraburi.

Deputy Supreme Commander Gen Kriangsak Chamanan yesterday toured the temple facilities and donated 111,000 baht so that Phra Chamrun can carry on his work. The donation was made on behalf of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand.

With this and other contributions, Phra Chamrun intends to resume his treatment of addicts almost immediately. He stopped temporarily for lack of funds.

Despite the halt, he is now treating one Australian and three Malaysian youths "because they had spent time and money to journey here." The three Malaysians had been brought by a former Malaysian addict who had been cured at the wat.

"I felt so good that I asked my friends to come here," he said.

Phra Chamrun reported that a number of students who had passed urine tests for admission into the universities had confessed to cheating at the tests. When they were reluctant to tell how, their parents, anxious to get their children cured, did the explaining.

"An addicted student would take the urine of a friend who has never taken heroin. He would hide it in a small bottle in his pocket.

"When he goes into the latrine supposedly to pass urine for the test, he would transfer his friend's urine into the vial provided him. He would then add a drop of kerosene, which would give warmth to the urine. Thus, he passed the test."

Of the types of narcotics taken by addicts treated at Wat Thamkrabok, No. 3 and No. 4 grades of heroin have been the most prevalent, accounting for over 63 percent of the total.

Most of the hilltribe people who came down for treatment are opium addicts. Many come from the Shan states.

Lo Hsing Han's nephew told Phra Chamrun the names of the persons he considered the four topmost narcotics traffickers in the Golden Triangle. No. 1 was Khun Sa.

Phra Chamrun reported that the most difficult addicts to cure are those who have taken heroin and marijuana together.

Secondal addicts have also sought treatment at the wat. General Kriangsak agreed to help Phra Chamrun in his plan to help the hilltribes turn from poppy planting to the cultivation of other cash crops.

Phra Chamrun said that the Brazilian charge d'affaires had informed him that his country was interested in importing 10,000 tons of black peas if the hilltribes could produce them.

Parents of addicts in Europe, particularly Germany and Switzerland, have written to express their intention to bring their children for treatment.

Following up on those who have left the wat as cured, the monks of Wat Thamkrabok said that they found 70 percent had not returned to addiction while 25 percent had gone back to drugs, and no trace could be found of the remaining 5 percent.

Phra Chamrun said that he was beset by difficulties in his work. Some people had spread rumours about him being a "communist using his treatment to turn youths to communism." This had been an obstacle to fund-raising.

For the treatment of one person, 200 baht has to be spent. In the case of a hilltribesman, 500 baht is required, because the expense includes his travel.

He used up the 200,000 baht Magsaysay Award in treatment of addicts.

Phra Chamrun plans to treat 6,000 addicts a year.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

PAPER WANTS INTERNATIONAL AID FOR DRUG TREATMENT CENTER

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jul 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Time for the UN to Assist"]

[Text] The Magsaysay award winning abbot at Wat [temple] Thamkrabok in Saraburi, Phra [monk] Chamrun Panchantha, has moved a step further in his fight against narcotics addiction. He gained worldwide fame for his treatment of young addicts. Now he has been welcoming hilltribes people who wish to get rid of their opium smoking habits. If this programme is carried out in conjunction with the crop substitution project, it is logical to expect the hilltribes to give up poppy cultivation. They will not need the opium either for trade or for their own consumption.

The United Nations should be interested in providing Phra Chamrun with funds to treat the hilltribe addicts. It costs 500 baht to treat a hilltribesman, because his transportation has to be paid. This compares with 200 baht for treating an addict from Bangkok. Phra Chamrun who is very short of funds should be given sympathy by the United States and European governments whose countries are flooded with heroin from the Golden Triangle.

If through massive efforts the poppy cultivators can be brought down from the hills in lots for treatment, there will come within a reasonable time an end to the need for the hilltribes to continue planting opium.

Of course, the hilltribes have to be aided in turning to other cash crops for a livelihood. Phra Chamrun has requested the help of General Kriangsak Chamanan, deputy supreme commander, in promoting the cultivation of black beans or matpe which is in great demand in Japan, Brazil and other countries for making bean sprouts. Those who claim that opium is too valuable a crop to be given up for alternate crops are not aware that the hilltribes receive only a small return for their raw opium. The hilltribes have to collect opium from a large area to get a sufficient amount for sale for an adequate income. Tea or coffee plants grown in a relatively small area can produce better income for the hilltribes, if marketing is properly organised.

When the hilltribes turn to these other crops they need not continue to destroy forests for planting opium with their "slash-and-burn" methods. Coffee, tea and other plants continue to produce for years without robbing the soil of nutrients, like the opium poppy.

Phra Chamrun's treatment of narcotic addicts may not be acceptable to orthodox medical practitioners, but those who have had direct or indirect experience with people given the treatment realise that he has achieved much greater success than prescribed methods, where less dangerous drugs than heroin are used to reduce the addiction. The secondary drug becomes a new menace.

It is claimed that Wat Thamkrabok has achieved 70 percent success, admitting 25 percent failure while the remaining 5 percent could not be followed up for various reasons. This is an impressive record, with no other treatment in the world having brought about real cures. Addicts have flocked to Wat Thamkrabok from neighbouring countries, Europe and America for treatment.

Anyone who has had relatives or friends addicted to narcotics should help Phra Chamrun in his efforts. The best way is to organise and establish a foundation which will receive donations and place them in a bank. Even the interest paid by the bank on the donations will help addicts become normal and useful citizens again.

There is no substantiation for vicious allegations that Phra Chamrun is a "communist." He has a worthy cause, and let us help him save our youths from addiction.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

GAINS MADE IN DRUG SUPPRESSION DRIVE

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jul 77 p 8 BK

[Editorial: "Keep Up the Good Work"]

[Text] Three months ago, when Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian addressed the East Asian Regional Narcotics Conference in Bangkok, he pledged that his government would continue to put the anti-narcotics campaign "as one of the first priorities in the government's policies." He warned his audience that they should not expect startling results too quickly as narcotics suppression was a complex business but, as he told America's Lester Wolff and others at the conference, "Thailand is committed to the task."

Hardly a day goes by now without further evidence coming to light of just how committed we are to this task--government, narcotics control board, the narcotics suppression police, and the various drug enforcement agencies which are working hand-in-hand with the Thai authorities. The battle might not yet have been won--how could it be in so short a time?--but certainly every skirmish on which we come out as victors is a step towards victory.

Every time police capture a drugs haul it is a step along the way. It means that much less is getting through, either to our own addicts here or to the world market. The bigger the haul the greater the effect, but even the small haul of a few kilos means that the supply tap has had yet another small turn towards the "off" position. And what is perhaps even more important is that some drug peddler, small or large, must come face to face with justice and the consequences of his crime.

The stakes in the drug traffic game are high and the temptations are great. But every single time someone is caught, and if subsequently they are found guilty and must face the punishment prescribed, others will have reason to reassess the odds. If the happy position can be reached--and perhaps we are on the way to that point--where the odds of being caught are so high as to make it a doubtful proposition, then Thailand will be able to hold its head high and the world, in consequence, will be a happier place to live in.

To all entitled to share in the credit for the progress being made we would just say: "Well done--and keep up the good work."

MAJOR NARCOTICS ARRESTS MAY HALT TRAFFICKING

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 18 Jul 77 p 3 BK

[Editorial: "Major Heroin Arrest"]

[Excerpts] The arrest of a big heroin dealer on 14 July by Thai police and international police, who have been able to trace accomplices, may stop narcotics suppliers and international traffickers from using Thailand as a route, at least for a while, although it cannot stop them completely. The arrest may also encourage narcotics officials to continue their operations until narcotics trafficking is reduced.

Results of an investigation following this arrest and the outcome of legal action against those arrested will soon be known to the public. Narcotics trafficking, which has destroyed Thailand's reputation in international circles, originated in Shan state in Burma. Very little narcotics originates in Thailand. The trafficking movement receives direct and indirect support from illicit goods traders in Burma, whose influence has spread into Thailand as well. In addition, the Kuomintang 93d Division, some of whose members have become narcotics dealers, also has a part in the narcotics trafficking action. These foreigners have long dominated the officials involved in narcotics suppression. If these people are not uprooted, narcotics trafficking will never be eliminated.

One noticeable point is that dealers in illicit goods in northern border areas, especially dealers in heroin and other narcotics, have been using routes in Chiang Rai, Fang District of Chiang Mai Province and Mae Sot District of Tak Province, all connecting with the Golden Triangle area. There are Border Patrol Police officials, narcotics suppression officials and province police officials scattered throughout those areas. But why have narcotics traffickers been able to reach Bangkok, where narcotics arrests are now frequently reported? Can it be that government officials sent directly to suppress them cooperate with them?

We hope that police officials at all levels will appreciate the heroin menace, that it will destroy not only Thai citizens but also people around the world and that it is a great peril that must be decisively suppressed,

both with dedication on the part of the suppression officials and with the penalties prescribed by the law of each country. As for Thailand in particular, this country's reputation has been badly stained in the eyes of the world which looks on our officials as being involved with the narcotic traffickers.

The results of the Thai police work will confirm our determination to cooperate in suppressing and eliminating this great menace to mankind. These major arrests may somehow halt or reduce narcotics trafficking over routes in Thailand.

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THAILAND

ARRESTED DRUG PUSHER NAMES MAJOR TRAFFICKERS

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 17 Jul 77 p 1 BK

[Excerpts] Taiwanese businessman Lao Fan, described yesterday by the police chief as "an international drug trafficker," has named six principal drug traffickers in Thailand.

He disclosed the six names, mostly Chinese-Haws from the northern part of Thailand near the Burmese border, during questioning by Chana Songkhram police officers on 1 June, this year, when he was first interrogated.

Lao Fan, 39, was released after the questioning when he disclaimed association with three other persons arrested on 1 May.

"To show his innocence, he claimed, he gave police six names allegedly to be major traffickers in Thailand," a police officer told the NATION REVIEW.

The six names given by Lao Fan to Chana Songkhram police on 1 June were:

- (1) A 50-year-old Chinese Haw residing in Khlong Prapa area in Bangkok.
- (2) A 48-year-old Chinese Burmese living in a hill in Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province. He has about four battalions of Haw rebels under his command. He also runs a large number of heroin manufacturing factories. Police were told by Lao Fan that 80 percent of heroin circulating in Bangkok's black market comes from his factories.
- (3) Another Chinese Haw, aged about 50. His name was also given.
- (4) A 55-year-old Chinese Haw in Mae Sai District, of Chiang Rai. He also has his house in Bangkok.
- (5) Another Chinese Haw named is also 55 with houses in Bangkok. He usually lives in Mae Sai.

(6) A 50-year-old Chinese Haw who, together with the fifth named, runs a large network of drug trafficking stretching all the way to the Thai-Malaysian border.

Lao Fan reportedly told investigating police officers that these major traffickers had been involved in the illicit trade for many years. They usually transported their drugs from the Thai-Burmese border into Bangkok on 10-wheeled trucks.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NORTHERN BUSINESSMAN GETS 35 YEARS FOR DRUG POSSESSION

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Jul 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Chiang Mai--In one of the most celebrated drug cases in this northern province, the provincial court yesterday sentenced a well known merchant, Arun Nanawichit, to 35 years' imprisonment and imposes heavy jail terms on two accomplices.

Arun and his nephew Saman Nanawichit were both given 35 years' imprisonment while a third accomplice, Mrs Somphon Anuwongcharoen, was given 17 years and 6 months' imprisonment.

Judge Suithi Tangsiwong found the suspects guilty of possessing and attempting to smuggle 300 kg of opium and morphine derivatives in March last year.

It was not immediately known whether the three would appeal their sentence.

The court was told that on 23 March last year narcotics agents based in the north, led by Pol Col Kuson Naksichum, raided a house in the provincial town and seized a large quantity of drugs including 164 kg of opium, 20 kg of morphine and 105 kg of morphine sticks. The total value of the haul was estimated at 40 million baht.

Arrested at the scene was owner of the house Mrs Somphon and Arun, a prominent businessman and a Moslem community leader in Chiang Mai.

Arun's nephew, Saman, was suspected of being involved in the trade. He was not at the scene at the time of the raid but was taken into custody later.



Arun...drug cache was worth 40 million baht

Arun denied any knowledge about the drugs and fought the case in court. He was later given bail because of a heart ailment.

Police since then had collected evidence in the case and the prosecutor duly submitted the case to court.

The final verdict was handed down yesterday.

Arun, apparently stunned by the verdict of 35 years' jail term, refused to make any comments to newsmen.

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THAI POLICE SEIZE HEROIN, ARREST FIVE MEN, INCLUDING SINGAPOREAN

Raids in Bangkok and Chiang Mai

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jul 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Five men including a Singapore national were arrested and over 10 kilogrammes of heroin seized in two separate raids in Bangkok and Chiang Mai yesterday.

In the Bangkok raid police followed a suspect, Somchai Sae Li, from the Florida Hotel to a house on Pradiphat Road belonging to Hui Sae Tan after learning that heroin was to be handed over to a known trafficker.

As Somchai entered the house he was arrested with Singaporean Wong Sai Chong (also known as Tan Aik Suan or George Wong), and Hui's wife, Mrs Siamcheng Sae Tang. Police found 5,390 grams of No 3 heroin in four plastic bags under the false bottom of two suitcases carried by Somchai.

Another suspect, Damrong Thiangchit, was later arrested in Soi Ari Samphan.

Wong had earlier been deported from the Netherlands after serving 10 months on a drug charge.

Hui, allegedly the financier of the gang, managed to elude police arrest.

Meanwhile, Chiang Mai police set up a check point in Fang District after learning that heroin would be taken into town along the Fang-Chiang Mai highway.

They flagged down a white car whose driver accelerated to hit a patrol car parked on the road shoulder. The driver managed to escape but a passenger, Lao Li Chaichong, 28, was arrested. He was a Haw tribesman.

Police found 12 packages of No 4 heroin weighing about 5 kilogrammes in the car boot.

Photo of Suspects

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 8 Jul 77 p 1

[Text]



Picture shows standing from left: Damrong and Somchai and (seated Siemjeng and Wong, a Singaporean

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

CONFISCATED HEROIN TO BE DESTROYED 11 AUGUST

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jul 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Two hundred and eighty four kilogrammes of heroin confiscated from arrested drug traffickers will be burned 11 August at the shooting range of the Royal Thai Army's 1st Command, an official source told the BANGKOK POST yesterday.

The 284 kilogrammes of heroin to be burned had been confiscated between 1974-1975 and impounded after the cases had been settled in court.

The heroin is at present under the care of the Food and Medicine Control Division, Ministry of Public Health.

Apart from heroin, the source said that there is, at present, over a ton of confiscated morphine at the division. However, the morphine will not be destroyed but will be sold under strict control for medical purposes.

The source added that the 284 kilogrammes of heroin to be destroyed in August does not include a controversial amount of heroin seized before 1975. A large amount of seized drugs reportedly disappeared from the Food and Medicine Control Division store room 2 years ago. No official explanation was ever given for the reported disappearance.

Earlier in June 1975, there was a report that 272 kilogrammes of heroin, 280 kilogrammes of morphine and 3,700 tubes of dry morphine had "disappeared" from storage. The drugs were under the responsibility of the chief of the Food and Medicine Control Division, Chuwit Rattanachai.

Former Public Health Minister Prachum Rattanaphian has set up a committee to probe into the missing drugs. However, the result of the investigation was never made public. There was only a report indicating that the amount of drugs missing was far smaller than reported.

The source also said that after the first 284 kilogrammes of heroin is burned, it will be easier to check and collect the amount of heroin to be destroyed in the future.

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BRIEFS

NARCOTICS TEAM TO VISIT TURKEY--Several members of the National Narcotics Control Board will leave for Turkey Monday to study the method of crop substitution for opium there. The team to be led by Secretary General Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon will also hold talks with Turkish officials on the prevention and suppression of drug trafficking rings. "Crop substitution projects have been launched by five villages in the north of Thailand. Similar projects will be introduced at Mae Cham River bank in Chiang Mai soon despite the fact that authorities are facing the problem of marketing and distributing of the substitute crops," Mr Pramuk said. The Turkish Government, he said, allows its people to cultivate poppies legally since opium is necessary for the production of morphine and other medicines. Cultivation of poppies in Thailand should also be controlled by the government which can map out strict measures to prevent illegal trade, the secretary general said. The team is scheduled to return to Bangkok on July 20 and what they learn there will be adopted here, added Mr Pramuk. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 8 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

ARREST OF ITALIAN TRAFFICKER--Chiang Mai--An Italian national alleged to be a heroin trafficker was arrested yesterday at Chiang Mai Airport with packages of heroin "samples" while he was about to board a flight to Bangkok. Despite the small amount of heroin found on the Italian, Carlo G. Didonci, Northern Narcotics Suppression Police described him as a major Italian trafficker, who made frequent visits to Chiang Mai to purchase and deliver heroin. Carlo Didonci was arrested when he stepped off a hotel car which delivered him to Chiang Mai Airport at about 10 a.m. yesterday morning. Waiting Joint Narcotics Suppression and Chiang Mai Provincial Police surrounded him as he tried to run. He was grabbed by police. He tried to hide the heroin, which was packed in two small plastic bags contained in a condom. Police had to squeeze his mouth before he agreed to spit out the condom. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

DRUG TREATMENT CENTER--The number of drug addicts seeking treatment at the Tam Krabok Monastery in Saraburi so far this year has increased five fold compared with last year, according to a release of the National News Agency yesterday. The addicts may be broken down into 63.44 percent of

No 3 and No 4 heroin, 30.43 percent on opium, 1.26 percent on morphine, 3.47 percent on marijuana mixed with heroin and the remaining 0.22 percent on krathom [ground leaf of a plant of the madder family smoked for narcotic effect]. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

DRUG TESTS TO STUDENTS--The Ministry of Education will start conducting urine tests on students of upper secondary education (pre-university) next academic year in order to determine the extent of drug abuse among students, Education Minister Dr Phinyo Sathon disclosed yesterday. The minister admitted, however, that the method could not achieve a 100 percent result in detecting drug abuse. He said he wished there were a law to empower authorities to detain up to 24 hours any person suspected of being a drug addict to undergo a test. Dr Phinyo cited that in the United States, health officials could detain a man suspected of contracting venereal disease for examination as a method to keep the disease under check. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

SEIZURE OF MARIHUANA--Bangkok, June 30 (AFP)--Police in northeastern Thailand Wednesday seized 4 tons of marijuana, and arrested 22 persons allegedly involved in trying to smuggle the drug abroad. Press reports said a one-time candidate for the former Thai Parliament was implicated as financier behind the racket. The haul was valued at 200,000 U.S. dollars in Thailand. Police also confiscated six trucks used to haul the marijuana to Bangkok from Nakhon Phanom Province, the site of the arrests. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 30 Jun 77 BK]

MAY HEROIN SEIZURE--The prosecutor filed a suit in the Criminal Court yesterday against two Hong Kong Chinese who were arrested in May this year with almost 3 kilogrammes of heroin. Chan Wing Kit and Wong Ching Sui were charged with illegal possession, sale and trying to smuggle dangerous drugs out of the country. Both chose to fight the case in court. The court was told that the two were arrested by customs officials on 18 May, while they were about to board a royal Jordanian Airline Flight out of the country with 2,940 grammes of heroin. The prosecutor requested that no bail be allowed for the two. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 77 p 5 BK]

BRITISH WOMAN ON HEROIN CHARGE--Bangkok, 13 Jul (AFP)--A British woman, Miss Rita Nightingale, 24, today pleaded not guilty to a drug trafficking charge in a Bangkok criminal court. The woman was arrested on 19 March when she was about to board a French airliner for Paris. The prosecution charged that 3 kg (6.6 lb) of heroin was hidden in her portable radio and hand luggage. The judge advised the weeping defendant to "plead guilty" to avoid a heavy sentence. Miss Nightingale arrived in Bangkok from Hong Kong on 17 March accompanied by Chi Chan Ming Fai, 27, a Hong Kong Chinese carrying a British passport, the prosecution alleged. In the dock also was a Chinese national, Yip Ka Keung, alias Robert Yip, accused by Miss Nightingale of being the supplier of the drugs. Mr Yip denied the allegation. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 13 Jul 77 BK]

AMPHETAMINE CHARGE--Khon Kaen--Police this morning arrested a woman and a man found in possession of illegal drugs. A police team led by Khon Kaen superintendent Pol Col Sawat Singwong raided house No 58/12-13 on Pracha Samoson Road and arrested Mrs Sumali Immek for having 1,000 tablets of amphetamine. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 19 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

FRENCH MPS VISIT--Nine French MPs are visiting Bangkok to discuss with Thai authorities on the new coordination against drug trafficking between the two countries. The team, led by Mr George Donnez, secretary general of the House Legal Committee, arrived here Monday and are scheduled to leave Bangkok today. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 20 Jul 77 p 1 BK]

POLICE ARREST TWO--Two persons were arrested yesterday afternoon in a police raid at their apartment room in Soi Buphasawan, Charansanitwong Road, Bangkok No 1 on charges of possessing heroin for sale, police reported. Police found 81 plastic tubes containing No 4 heroin to be sold at 140 baht each. In another search, seven blank tubes and two orders for 200 tubes were discovered. The suspects were identified as Miss Chariya Phetkeo (20) and Thiradit Limkhiu (25). Both were staying in the same room in Hancholathi apartment. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jul 77 p 3 BK]

CSO: 5300

CAF OFFICIAL UNSURE ON MARIHUANA LEGALIZATION

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 14 Jul 77 p 8

[Text]

WINNIPEG (staff) — Nova Scotian Marvin Burke, elected president of the Canadian Addictions Foundation yesterday, avoided answering whether he thought possession of marijuana should be legalized.

Speaking at his first press conference as president, he said: "I'm not copping out." All the costs of marijuana have not been measured, he added.

Mr. Burke said he wondered whether the introduction of "a new substance" would mean a doubling of the economic and other social costs arising from alcohol — the drug he and his association consider Canada's worst problem.

"On the other hand, what are the costs if we don't do something (about the status of marijuana) — the judicial costs, costs of policing and what it's doing to youth's attitude to the law."

Mr. Burke, executive director of the Nova Scotia Commission on Drug

Dependency, said in his province 88 per cent of the convictions under the Narcotics Control Act and the Food and Drugs Act are for simple possession of marijuana.

When charges for trafficking and for possession for the purposes of trafficking are included, the figure of convictions goes up to 92 per cent.

"The costs are tremendous," he said.

Marijuana — once the in subject for those working in the addictions area — is not the dominant subject during the week-long CAF conference.

The stress is almost entirely on alcohol. Mr. Burke said the foundation would be pressing for greater government action, particularly in preventive programs.

However, he said, he expected the organization to take a greater look at the marijuana problem and that there would be some kind of presentation on the subject next year.

CSO: 5320

GANG CONTROL OF DRUGS FEARED

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 23 Jun 77 p 14

[Text]

BARRIE, Ont. (CP) — Ontario's motorcycle gangs have made connections with organized crime figures and have gained control of illegal drug trading, a senior RCMP officer said Wednesday.

Supt. William Sherman of Toronto said in a report to the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police that the gangs, numbering about 800 members in 20 clubs, operate throughout the province and in the United States.

Sherman said the gangs are believed to control 75 per cent of the provincial traffic in methamphetamines (speed) and are involved in the sale and distribution of heroin, cocaine, hashish, marijuana and other drugs.

Harold Adamson, Metropolitan Toronto police chief, said connections have been discovered between organized crime figures and the motorcycle gangs' drug operations.

Sherman said one motorcycle gang leader had met an organized crime figure several times.

He said the gangs use terror tactics, including shootings, beatings, assaults and murders, to gain control of the illegal drug field and are a coldly efficient, loosely organized co-operative.

Gang leaders now drive big cars, own expensive houses and valuable resort area farms and have boats and investments in legitimate businesses, Sherman said.

Many of the leaders are sophisticated criminals using aircraft, two-way radios, electronic scanning devices, page boys, wire-taps and other means to carry out deals and monitor the work of law enforcement officials.

Canadian gangs have aligned themselves with others in the U.S. and their operations will continue to grow unless police

deal with them to the fullest extent of the law and gain public support to block any relaxation of drug laws, Sherman said.

CSO: 5320

NDP PLEA TO MAKE MARIHUANA LEGAL

Ottawa THE WEEKEND CITIZEN in English 2 Jul 77 p 1

[Text]

WINNIPEG (CP) — New Democratic Party members pushed their leaders Friday to advocate legalization of marijuana and establishment of a government agency to oversee sales of the drug.

At the NDP's four-day national policy conference, delegates from the Regina East riding won support for a resolution that would make it party policy to "support the decriminalization of marijuana use by individuals and the institution of a control agency such as liquor control boards."

The proposal still must be endorsed by the full conference of more than 800 delegates before it becomes official NDP policy.

Simon de Jong, 35, a Saskatchewan public servant, led arguments in support of legalization on the grounds that 4,000 persons now are in jail for marijuana-related offences.

De Jong said use of marijuana does not lead to use of harder drugs such as heroin, is safer than alcohol and is not as addictive as cigarettes.

Another Regina delegate, Don Anderson, said 100,000 Canadians have criminal records simply for using "a herb that you can grow in your garden and put in your salads."

CSO: 5320

CANADA

'LENIENT SENTENCE' ON CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT HEROIN

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 2 Jul 77 p 13

[Text]

A county court judge imposed Wednesday what he called a "lenient sentence" on a woman convicted of taking part in a 1975 conspiracy to import \$3 million worth of heroin into Vancouver.

Citing what he called her "perilous" physical and mental condition, Judge Lee Skipp sentenced Ruby L. Limerick, 46, to a prison term of two years less a day and a \$10,000 fine.

The judge said he took into consideration the fact that Limerick was a "minor contributor" to the conspiracy.

Two fellow conspirators were convicted earlier this year. King Sing Tai, 23, and Joe Mohin Chow, 41, received prison terms of 12 years and 18 years respectively.

Judge Skipp noted that Limerick's mental condition was a significant factor in his decision. She is a day patient at the psychological unit of Burnaby General Hospital.

But he said that despite her poor health he could not ignore the serious nature of the crime.

The conspiracy occurred between January and September, 1975, when the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit and the RCMP seized evidence indicating that four pounds of heroin had been smuggled into Vancouver from the Orient.

CSO: 5320

BRIEFS

HEROIN MAILED FROM THAILAND--Montreal (CP)--Four men were charged in Sessions Court on Wednesday with importing 350 grams of heroin, and related offences. RCMP said the drug was mailed to various Montreal addresses from Thailand. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 15 Jul 77 p 32]

THAI STICKS SEIZED--Surrey, B.C. (CP)--RCMP arrested two people and seized 400 pounds of Thai sticks--an extremely potent form of marijuana--worth \$2-million in two vehicles in this municipality about 20 miles southeast of Vancouver on Thursday night. [Text] [Toronto THE SATURDAY GLOBE MAIL in English 16 Jul 77 p 11]

CSO: 5320

COLOMBIA

JUSTICE MINISTER PROMISES CRACKDOWN ON DRUGS

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 24 Jun 77 p 12-A

[Article by Hernan Unas]

[Text] The minister of justice, Dr Cesar Gomez Estrada, told this newspaper yesterday that a fleet of airplanes and helicopters will soon begin operations along the Atlantic coast. The fleet's primary objective will be to combat all aspects of drug trafficking.

The high government official stated that this will be one of the results of the conversations which he and President Lopez held last Wednesday with the two special envoys of the U.S. president, Jimmy Carter. EL ESPECTADOR had exclusive coverage of the event in yesterday's edition.

Carter's two envoys began their journey home at 1100 hours the day before yesterday, after having agreed with the Colombian officials on the guidelines to be followed in order to stop the criminal trafficking of drugs between the two nations.

Chase Planes

Minister Gomez said that among the donations promised by Drs Peter Bourns and Matia Falcon, drug advisers to the White House and the Department of State, are three helicopters and some planes, whose number was not specified.

He indicated that the helicopters will be used especially to discover marihuana plantations in La Guajira and other departments along the Atlantic coast, where plantations of this type are known to exist.

The planes that will make up the fleet will have various functions, among them that of locating equipment in secret airports, watching for the arrival of planes of suspicious registration, and the chasing of those planes which are suspected of making drug pick-ups or which could carry shipments out of the country.

The head of the Department of Justice said nothing about the type of airplane which will be used for this task, nor about the people who will be in charge of such operations.

Gomez Estrada emphasized that the U.S. envoys also offered help in terms of the operating expenses of the vessels, whether for spare parts or for fuel.

Crackdown Promised

The minister stated that there will be a "crackdown" on the people whose participation in any activity related to drug trafficking has been proved.

He pointed out that this type of action will be carried out mainly in the departments of La Guajira and Magdalena, where the most cultivation and exportation of marihuana has been discovered.

Minister Gomez confirmed the item published in this newspaper in last Tuesday's edition indicating that the National Security Council had agreed upon a series of rigorous measures in order to stop the activity of the drug traffickers who operate in northern Colombia.

"The national government is very anxious to stop the activities of these criminals and has thus decided to implement a series of measures to combat them," he stated.

Dr Gomez confirmed that at present planes are flying over a vast part of La Guajira and areas along the Atlantic coast in order to find the marihuana plantations which may lie there.

"The National Security Council granted the armed forces the power to implement a desirable plan of action in order to cut off the drug traffickers," he said.

He indicated that a similar thing happened when the armed forces were put in charge of controlling the smuggling of food items.

Two Meetings

Minister Gomez stated that he had had two meetings with President Carter's envoys, and that in both the dialogue was extremely cordial. The first of these interviews took place at noon last Wednesday with President Lopez, and the second took place in the Ministry of Justice at 1700 hours of the same day. Present at that meeting was the attorney general of the nation, Dr Jaime Serrano Rueda.

"At both meetings," said Gomez, "we analyzed the common problems being created by drug trafficking. We found the American delegates enthusiastic at all times."

He said that the two officials offered the appropriate technical assistance for the utilization of the helicopters and the planes which will make up the northern fleet. They will also contribute to underwriting the costs of operation.

Plantations Being Destroyed

When asked what finally happened to the enormous marihuana plantations found in La Guajira, Minister Gomez Estrada responded: "For the last two weeks we

have been destroying them. All necessary elements are being employed for this task, such as tractors and machetes. This work is being carried out by the armed forces."

A few kilometers from that site, as will be remembered, authorities found a burned airplane days after the discovery of the plantations. It is presumed that the drug traffickers set fire to the plane to prevent its identification and to avoid its being used against them.

As in the case of the marihuana plantations in La Guajira, Minister Gomez Estrada indicated that the legal action being undertaken against the crewmembers of the HK-1291 in Santa Marta will have a change of venue in the next few days.

"I want to explain to the country that that is not a government move, since this falls under the jurisdiction of the Public Ministry. In the case in question, the national attorney general asked his representative in Barranquilla to draw up the appropriate request so that it will be subject to the necessary steps, among them the fact that the Supreme Court must rule on the matter."

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

FOREIGNERS DENIED GOOD CONDUCT RELEASE

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Jun 77 p 9-A

[Article by Sigifredo Eusse]

[Text] Barranquilla, 28 June--Two Americans confined here under a sentence of 5 years for drug possession-related matters asked for conditional freedom for the 2 years that remain of their sentence. They have given rise to a heated legal controversy over the application of the penal code to foreigners.

The Americans, Kirby Lance Wolf and Francie Ann Smoot, were sentenced 3 years ago by the Fifth Penal Judge of the Barranquilla circuit, and are serving their sentences in the Modelo Jail and the City Women's Jail, respectively.

In the middle of this week, the Americans expressly requested the Fifth Circuit Court "to grant them conditional freedom under article 5 of the penal code." According to the Americans, this article stipulates that prisoners have the right to conditional freedom for good conduct and continued work within the respective prison facilities.

Nonetheless, the present Fifth Circuit Judge, Napoleon Ricardo, denied the foreigners' request, basing his denial primarily on the type of crime committed and the fact that the Americans would have to leave the country immediately without the guarantee of any direct control over their periodic appearance before some Colombian authority in the United States.

Yesterday, on the other hand, Cesar Barraza, a prosecutor for the Penal Circuit Courts, appealed Judge Ricardo's ruling, pointing out that it "violated article 11 of the National Constitution, which grants equal rights to Colombians and foreigners."

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

VENEZUELAN VESSEL SEIZED BY TRAFFICKERS RECOVERED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jul 77 p 23-A

[Text] --Cartagena, Colombia; 7 Jul 77--Colombian authorities of this port on the Caribbean have recovered the Venezuelan vessel 'Vivaldi' which had been attacked on the high seas by a band of pirates who, apparently, murdered 9 of her crew members.

The chief of police of this city, Lt Col Octavio Vargas, said that, in a joint operation with the Atlantic naval command, not only was the ship recovered but it was established that, apparently, the pirate gang planned to use the vessel in the marihuana and cocaine traffic to the United States.

The authorities acted on the basis of information provided in the deposition of Venezuelan seaman Claudio Arcelis Lugo Prieto, who was recently found on a beach near Barranquilla.

The latter said that the pirates seized the vessel and threw her crew, bound hand and foot, into the sea. He added that he had managed to escape from his bonds and to swim to the shore in order to tell the authorities what had happened.

Lt Col Vargas revealed that there were 11 pirates, all Colombians, and that they were arrested on 21 June following a shootout in which one of them was wounded.

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

TRAFFICKERS FLEEING TO VENEZUELA SEIZED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jun 77 p 7-A

[Article by Walter Martinez P.]

[Text] Santa Marta, 27 June--Two Americans are being held in Caracas after being caught by Venezuelan authorities when they were fleeing Colombia. They had had an accident in La Guajira in the small plane in which they were going to pick up some marihuana.

The Americans are John Michelover and Martin Marks, pilot and copilot of the Beechcraft plane, U.S. registration number N-19-S, belonging to Steve Ruth. They apparently left Texas in the plane on 26 January of this year for the purpose of transporting marihuana in La Guajira, according to information gathered by Colombian authorities in an investigation.

The investigations carried out by the secret government organizations, in cooperation with Venezuelan authorities and the Division of Narcotics of the United States, revealed that the plane crashed in the Dibuya-Guajira area and its occupants burned it so as not to leave any traces. Afterwards they fled secretly to Venezuela in order to elude authorities. But they were captured in Venezuela, perhaps when they tried to get to the United States.

Informed sources did not specify the date of the arrest of the two Americans, but they did say that John Michelover and his friend Martin Marks could be connected with the case of Bruce Allan [as published], who died last week in the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Santa Marta as a result of burns suffered when the plane he was piloting caught fire in La Guajira.

It is known that Allen was one of the main characters in an unusual episode, when five of his countrymen tried to sneak him out of the country and were surprised by the F-2 when they were getting ready to take an airplane from the Santa Marta airport.

The rescue effort failed and the burned man was returned to the hospital, where he died 48 hours later without revealing the place where his plane had fallen. All he said was that he had had an accident 95 degrees from Riohacha, but to

date it has not been possible to find the exact site of the crash, in spite of the fact that the police, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), and the F-2 have searched the area several times where the plane is thought to have crashed.

Meanwhile, the five Americans, Anthony Gerakis, Stephen Bolling, Jeffrey Ellis, Jose Parada and Lee Wilson, were sent to the Judicial Prison under the orders of the Ninth Criminal Examining Magistrate, Enrique Garcia, who began to question them this morning.

It is possible that Warren Edward Walden, the other American arrested in the Ernesto Cortissoz Airport in Barranquilla, has connections with the case being investigated here.

As was reported in EL TIEMPO, authorities believe that Edward Walden is the same person who brought his countryman Bruce Adams to the Santa Marta hospital from Riohacha, together with a Peace Corps nurse in La Guajira. However, Walden told a different story when he was arrested, saying that his plane crashed in the sea in the Cienaga Grande area, north of Magdalena. He said he managed to survive in a boat in which he drifted for 14 hours.

Sources close to the examining magistrate, Enrique Garcia, say that the Edward Walden case will be incorporated into the proceedings against the dead American in this capital city.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

SUMMARY OF THE 'MINI-ENTEBBE' CASE GIVEN

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jun 77 p 1-A, 6-A

[Text] The unsuccessful attempt to rescue American pilot Bruce Adams, who was mortally wounded when the plane he was flying from Colombia to the United States exploded with its shipment of marihuana, could lead to the discovery of one of the most important drug trafficking bands in North America.

The events surrounding the unsuccessful rescue attempt--which was reported in this newspaper at the time--have led authorities to believe that they have come upon an event without precedent in the history of crime.

The characters in this suspense thriller are strange people with possible connections with the powerful U.S. mafia. Also involved were an airline that provides 24-hour service with private jets, Colombian doctors, Chilean and American medical aides, and even two prominent American lawyers, one of whom held a high position in the administration of President Gerald Ford.

Furthermore, to make this case one of the most important discoveries in the campaign against drug trafficking, there seems to be a connection between the burned pilot and the Colombian plane full of marihuana which was found near Jetmore, Kansas, and whose crew claims that they were the victims of a kidnapping.

To contribute to the importance of the event, high officials revealed yesterday that "high level" pressure is being exerted to obtain the release of the arrested people as well as the return of the airplane.

The "mini-Entebbe," as the case has been called, due to its resemblance to the famous rescue of the Jewish hostages held in Uganda, may lead American authorities to the discovery of the financiers of the "grass" traffic between the plantations of the Sierra Nevada of Colombia and the great cities of the United States.

According to an investigator, the case could be just as important as the "French Connection," which permitted the identification of the connections of the drug traffickers of the United States in France.

The Case

The case began when an unknown pilot (who was later identified as Bruce Adams) was taken from La Guajira to Santa Marta with serious burns apparently suffered when his plane, in which he was carrying marihuana, crashed.

A few days later Adams was arrested along with several others when he was about to be put on an American-registered plane which was waiting at the Santa Marta Airport. The plane's destination was San Antonio, Texas.

The plane as well as the six people who had come in the plane from the United States were held.

The capture caused a sensation in the United States, and various newspapers from that country have called here, especially Las Vegas papers. As is well known, Las Vegas is the world gambling capital, and thus the headquarters for important crime rings in the United States.

It is in that city that the Jet Avia airline company operates. This company specializes in charter flights to all parts of the world, especially for the owners of the casinos and the mafiosi.

Chris Karamanus, manager of Jet Avia, revealed that a few days ago he received a phone call from Atlanta, from a man who called himself Jim Chagra. Chagra had said that Lee Wilson, a pilot for the company until a few days ago, had had an accident in Colombia and an ambulance flight was needed to transfer him to the United States.

Chagra, who was arrested in Bogota, asked that the plane, a Lear Jet valued at more than \$1 million, stop by Atlanta and pick him up.

Karamanus, in order to confirm that story, called Santa Marta and the hospital informed him that in fact a burned pilot was confined there, but no one knew his identity.

Karamanus, who claims to have been deceived as to the identity of the wounded man, ordered the flight, and Anthony Gerakis and Stephen Bolling were named pilots, and Jeffrey Ellis and Jose Parada, a Chilean, were to serve as medical assistants.

The plane left Las Vegas and landed in Atlanta, where it is uncertain whether only Chagra was picked up.

It is certain that when the plane arrived in Santa Marta, the first to appear was Wilson, the one who was supposed to be wounded. He went to the city in the company of Chagra, while the other four people, the two pilots and the two medical assistants, remained at the airport installation.

Wilson and Chagra managed to get Adams out of the hospital and drive him in an ambulance, apparently with the complicity of Colombian doctors, to the airport, where they were all arrested when the plane was preparing for take-off.

Although the cost of the flight is not known for sure, all indications are that for the mafia to have invested such a high sum of money in trying to rescue Adams (the name his death was registered under, although he could have had a completely different name), he must have been a very important person.

In fact, other American drug traffickers have been arrested and their companions have never gone to so much trouble to rescue them.

The failure of the Americans--it is not certain why they failed, since the authorities have not revealed how they found out about the attempted escape--could well lead, in the opinion of the investigators, to the discovery of one of the main marihuana trafficking bands between Colombia and the United States.

Wilson's Version

The former pilot for Jet Avia, Lee Wilson, who was made to look like the wounded man, according to Karamanus' story, has given a rather curious explanation for his appearance in Colombia.

Wilson affirms that he was in the United States and found out that his close friend and colleague Bruce Adams had had an accident in La Guajira and was in very serious condition.

For that reason he decided to fly immediately, secretly, to La Guajira, in a small plane which he abandoned in an undisclosed place.

Wilson, therefore, could well have arrived in Colombia in one of the many planes that are used to carry out drug traffic; later he could have gone to Santa Marta to arrange for the rescue of his buddy.

Indeed, all signs point to the fact that it was Wilson who arranged everything for the release of the wounded man from the hospital, the renting of an ambulance and the transfer of the patient to the airport.

On the other hand, Wilson said nothing about the motives of his friend in making it look to the directors of the airline as if the wounded man who needed aid and an urgent transfer to the United States, was Wilson himself. A bed had been reserved in his name in one of the most reputable hospitals specializing in the treatment of burns.

It is also worth mentioning that it was revealed yesterday in Bogota that the jet pilot works for the governor of the state of Nevada, and it is not known why he was serving on the crew of the jet-hospital, although it could have to do with the mafia's connections with gambling, prostitution, and drugs in that state.

In Bogota

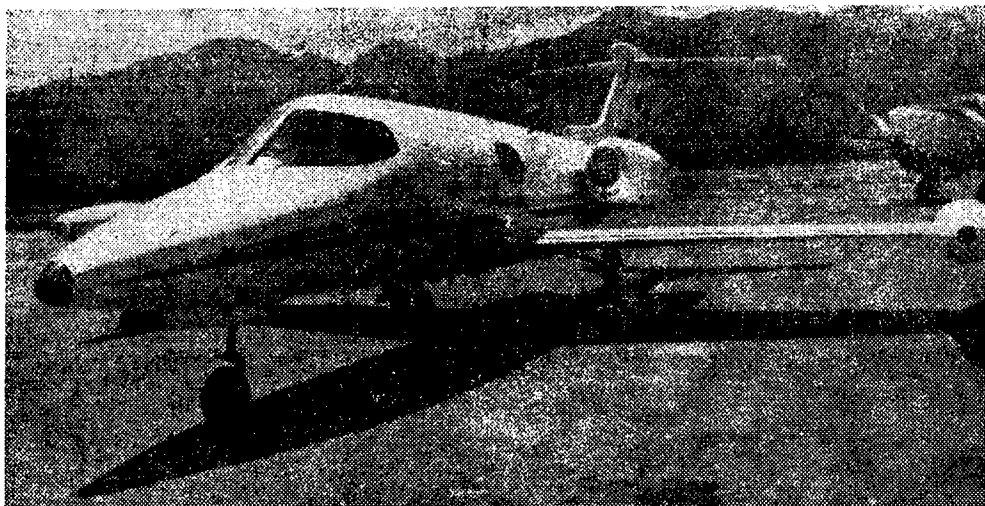
As is well known, the crew of the jet-ambulance, the two medical assistants, Jim Chagra and Lee Wilson were taken to Bogota, where they are under the jurisdiction of Dr Heriberto Tamayo, chief of the Alien Division.

The Administrative Department of Security (DAS) will be in charge of the pilots and medical assistants if it is proved that they were operating in good faith, under the illusion that the airline had been victimized, and if the penal judges of Santa Marta do not claim jurisdiction over them.

Chagra and Wilson will be under the orders of the judges who investigate drug trafficking in Barranquilla and Santa Marta, especially with regard to the marihuana-filled plane, which was confiscated in Kansas.

Thomas Aranda and Michael Levitt, the two lawyers sent from Las Vegas by Jet Avia, must return to the United States today. The two lawyers, through penologist Pablo Salah Villamizar, who has jurisdiction over the pilots and the medical assistants, claim that those people are totally free of any connection with drugs, nor have they perpetrated any fraud in that area; they also affirm that the crew, as well as the company, were operating in good faith, carrying out flights for which they were fully authorized.

According to other reports, other attorneys representing the Jet Avia company's insurance company were to arrive in Bogota yesterday in order to find out more about the situation and ask for the return of the plane which is being held in Santa Marta.



This is the Lear Jet 24D, executive-type, which was confiscated from five Americans who tried to rescue from the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Santa Marta the pilot Bruce Adams. This vessel is worth 42 million Colombian pesos, and could become the property of the DAS, in accordance with legislation concerning drug trafficking.

8926
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'GLORIA' CASE DECLARED A MISTRIAL

Trial Criticized, New Investigation Opened

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 26 Jun 77 p 1-A, 13-A

[Article by Hernan Unas]

[Text] The Military Superior Court declared a mistrial in the trial involving the discovery of a large cocaine shipment on board the training ship "Gloria."

The military court's decision was based on the faulty development of questionnaires.

The mistrial in this famous case was declared in the summoning resolution of the court martial which tried Chief Petty Officer Genaro Arias Londono, quartermaster of the flagship of the Colombian navy.

As a consequence of this, the competent military authority must summon a new court martial, possibly in Cartagena, the city where the crime allegedly took place.

The mistrial was declared by the judges and retired colonels Lizardo Perez Ch. and Samuel Beltran Arevalo, who drew up the opinion, and Dr Leonel Olivar Bonilla.

Investigation to Be Broadened

The Military Superior Court ordered the investigation to be broadened, linking to it other members of the crew of the "Gloria" whose names appeared as suspects in the scandalous episode from the very beginning.

The guidelines for conduct in the case in question were drawn up by the military prosecutor, Colonel Jose Joaquin Ardila Dimate, who found various irregularities in the procedures.

Among the faults pointed out was the fact that the commander of the ship, Captain Rafael Martinez Reyes, was tried not only because several bags of cocaine were found in the boat to be used by him, something which could have been done by any crewmember to avoid discovery, but also because he had sailed for the United States knowing that a huge quantity of cocaine was hidden on board the ship.

Captain Martinez Reyes, the section chief of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), Retired Captain Manuel Guillermo Rossi, and the commander of the Atlantic Naval Base, Rear Admiral Hector Calderon Salazar, all had ample and sufficient knowledge of the drug's presence on board the ship.

A document signed by the three officials, a copy of which belongs to EL ESPECTADOR, confirms that military and civilian authorities apparently were aware of the type of cargo carried by the "Gloria;" in spite of that fact, the ship was allowed to leave for the United States in order to participate in the regattas planned for the celebration of that country's bicentennial.

Captain Martinez Reyes received an order from Rear Admiral Calderon to locate the illegal shipment, but it was impossible to find the drug until some of the five drug traffickers arrested in Mexico gave the names of those who were to deliver the cocaine to them. They named the exact place where the drug was hidden.

Furthermore, it is presumed that Captain Martinez committed a sin of omission because in spite of the fact that he knew there were drugs hidden on board the ship, he did not take the necessary measures to prevent the drug from being taken off the ship, as happened later. Two women, as we reported at the time and as has been sufficiently demonstrated, came on board the "Gloria" in Miami and then left, calmly, with 20 kilos of the alkaloid. That this happened was officially demonstrated, so there is no doubt about it.

Six More Suspects

In accordance with the terms of the mistrial declared by the Military Superior Court, indicating that the investigation must be broadened, petty officers Henry Rambal, Jose Cruz and Angel Celino can be linked to the case. They were apprehended and remanded to Colombia, suspected of being involved in the drug traffic, since in the steward's office where they were quartered several polyethylene bags of cocaine were found.

It is entirely possible that another petty officer, named Palomeque, a welder named Rico and a carpenter named Rodriguez, who were surprised by New York police with \$20,000 in their pockets, will be prosecuted.

During the questioning of these men, the first stated that the money he was carrying had been found in a New York park, while the second maintained that the money was part of his savings. The third man did not give any satisfactory explanation.

Only One Accused

In spite of these significant details, to which can be added the fact that Rico and Rodriguez were the ones who made alterations, in iron and wood, in the places where the drugs were hidden, the only accused was Chief Petty Officer Genaro Arias Londono.

This quartermaster, as will be remembered, was acquitted by the court martial due to the skillful argument presented by his defender, criminal lawyer Ciro Quiroz.

However, the verdict was declared against the weight of evidence by the president of the court martial, and the case was sent to the Military Superior Court for the appropriate consultation.

In spite of the acquittal of Arias Londono, there were legal charges against him, including the testimony of the imprisoned drug traffickers in Mexico, who indicated that he was in charge of delivering the drug to them.

According to very reliable sources, the international police reported to Colombian authorities that they had found in the possession of one of the imprisoned traffickers a map which had the names of the ports which the "Gloria" was going to visit, as well as the dates of arrival. These notes are supposedly in the handwriting of Chief Petty Officer Arias Londono.

Three Civilians Acquitted

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jun 77 p 11-A

[Article by Narciso Castro Y.]

[Text] Cartagena, 27 June--The three civilians who were being held in the case of the cocaine found on the ship "Gloria" of the national navy, were acquitted by the First Penal Court of the Cartagena circuit.

The accused had been held in Mexico by that country's police, and were connected with the drugs found on board the training sailing vessel, which discovery led to the court martial of the ship's quartermaster, Genaro Arias Londono. Arias Londono was acquitted in a judgment which was found to be against the weight of evidence.

However, Sergio Alvarez Carrasquilla, Gilberto de Jesus Arboleda and Pedro Claver Gomez Hoyos must reside in Cartagena while the Superior Court of Justice resolves the appeal of the acquittal, initiated by the prosecutor of the First Penal Circuit Court, Rafael Pareja Jimenez.

The evidence which substantiated the arrest of the accused consisted of photocopies of statements made by them to Mexican police in which they admitted their ties to the cocaine traffic on board the "Gloria," but in their unsworn statements before a Colombian judge, they denied these ties.

At first, the accused were being defended by attorney Pablo Acosta Reyes, who was replaced by Julio Nunez. The latter maintained the absolute innocence of the defendants because during the trial the necessary evidence to implicate them was not legally presented.

In fact, the statements taken by Mexican police were not confirmed by the Colombian consul in that country; nor did the First Penal Judge of the Cartagena

circuit, Judith Camargo de Borre, manage to correct this deficiency in her investigation. The same thing happened during the court martial of the quartermaster.

The subpoena issued by this judge was appealed by the attorney for the defense, but the court upheld the decision of the first judge. When Judge Camargo de Borre resigned her position, she was succeeded by Carlos Osorio Posada, who presided over the public hearing.

Osorio Posada's judgment is being examined by the Superior Court, and once that court renders a verdict, the fate of the accused will be determined. But two of them, Pedro Claver Gomez Hoyos and Gilberto de Jesus Arboléda, must face another trial for four murders in the United States; the victims were Colombian.

In this investigation the accused are being represented by attorney Guillermo Quintero. The First Superior Judge, Manuel Sierra, took their unsworn statements a few days ago, but the legal implications of their involvement in the crime have not yet been evaluated, to determine whether a warrant for their arrest should be issued, or whether the investigation should be furthered, to establish the guilt or innocence of the accused.

The murders which are the subject of the second investigation were attributed to Gomez Hoyos by an official in the national attorney general's office. The victims were two small children of Oscar Toro, who as is well known was killed some months ago in the United States; the maid who was taking care of the children; and an adult, who was murdered in a restaurant.

At this point no one knows the basis of the accusations against Gomez Hoyos and Arboléda, due to the strict secrecy maintained in the investigation.

Investigation Reopened

The Military Superior Court will contend during the next few days that the legal action taken as a result of the drugs smuggled on board the Colombian navy training ship "Gloria" was a complete mistrial.

A source close to the military high court told EL TIEMPO that the cause of this mistrial was the faulty development of questionnaires.

As this newspaper reported earlier, the main suspect in the drug smuggling case, Genaro Arias Londono, was acquitted during a court martial which took place in Cartagena.

The acquittal of the accused was declared against the weight of evidence, and the case was sent to the Military Superior Court in Bogota.

The court, made up of judges Samuel Beltran Arevalo, Leonel Olivar Bonilla and retired colonel and attorney Lizardo Perez Chavez, studied the trial and found that, in addition to the verdict's going against the weight of evidence, there were irregularities in the development of the questionnaires, causing the mistrial to be declared.

Dr Beltran Arevalo wrote the opinion, declaring a mistrial and submitted it to his fellow judges for their examination on Friday; they agreed completely. The document awaits the signature of the commander of the armed forces, General Luis Carlos Camacho Leiva, who is now in Europe. In his absence, the document can be signed by the commander of the navy, Admiral Luis Alfonso Diaz Osorio.

EL TIEMPO finally learned that the mistrial verdict contains a recommendation by Dr Beltran Arevalo that when the investigation into the case of drug smuggling on board the "Gloria" is reopened, a more thorough investigation of the case be carried out, and that this time clues be followed up even though they were apparently abandoned in the investigations which led to the court martial in Cartagena.

8926

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

CRACKDOWN IN EL VALLE--Cali, 27 June--Police authorities in the El Valle area began several operations here to find several people with connections with a powerful international drug trafficking band whose main members and ringleaders were arrested 2 days ago in Panama. Police sources confirmed today that five Colombians and two Panamanians had been caught in Panama, and 66 kilos of cocaine were seized from them. The Colombians were identified as Gerardo Sanclemente, Jorge Enrique Villegas Hurtado, Florencio Munoz Ruiz, Hernan Ayala Jaramillo and Jaime Arango Alzate, all from different cities in the Cauca Valley. The Panamanians are Manuel Castillo and Guillermo McKay. It was revealed that until 2 months ago Villegas Hurtado was an auditor with the national comptrollership general, auditing an important official organization in Cali. Ayala Jaramillo is a visiting delegate of the same comptrollership, it was said. Arango Alzate was also connected with the comptrollership. The Colombians arrested in Panama with a cocaine shipment are well known in the Cauca Valley, especially in official circles. Police officials in El Valle said they were undertaking an intensive campaign in this department to locate other members of the band which was broken up in Panama. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jun 77 p 11-A] 8926

SEIZURE AT RIOHACHA--Riohacha, 29 June--A "cache" of 142 arrobas of marihuana, 32 seeds of the grass, and various weapons, was discovered by police, the army and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS). The discovery was made on the "Las Flores" ranch, located in "Campano Nuevo," along the banks of the Jerez River in the Riohacha district. During the police action, 42 persons were arrested, apparently in charge of the marihuana shipment, the seeds, and other articles which were found at the site. Among those articles were two hydraulic presses for packaging the drug, two motor pumps, four lifeboats, two 30 caliber guns and six rifles. Authorities also seized several English language magazines and a notebook which contained the names of some specific places in La Guajira that will be inspected within the next few hours. It is believed that these places could be the sites of secret landing strips in full use, and fields where the marihuana and seeds came from. The places mentioned in the traffickers' notebook are, among others, Pedregosa, La Pista and La Punta. The arrested people were interrogated and tomorrow will be

placed under the charge of an examining magistrate in Rionhacha. This judge will also find out who owns the "Las Flores" ranch, where the cache was located. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jun 77 p 7-A] 8926

KILLER LINKED TO TRAFFICKERS--Medellin, 29 June--A vehicle carrying two people killed by the "motorcycle killer" crashed into another car and resulted in the death of a man and a woman, said police. The deaths were attributed to the mysterious motorcycle rider who, according to officials, has caused the death of at least 40 people in less than a year. The "motorcycle killer," who has not been identified, reappeared today when he shot a couple in the La Brasa restaurant, and made a quick get-away on a motorcycle. Sergio Anibal Velasquez Perez and Luz Elpidia Murillo, seriously wounded by the shooting, were aided in a vehicle with license plates KC-7630, but they died before arriving at the clinic. However, the speeding vehicle crashed into another one at the intersection of 44th Street and Highway 58. The collision resulted in the death of Luis Alcides Lazcano Garrido and a woman who was not immediately identified. Authorities have unleashed a huge search to find the dangerous man who has caused terror and death in this city, the second largest city in Colombia. However, officials think that drug trafficking may be involved in this new outbreak of violence in Medellin. "These could be vendettas against various drug trafficking bands operating in Antioquia," said a police spokesman. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jun 77 pp 1-A, 9-A] 8926

TRAFFICKERS' VENDETTA--Santa Marta, 27 June--The bodies of two unidentified men, burned with gasoline, were found during the last 24 hours in two different places in the city; however, the incidents are related. Yesterday morning the Judicial Police found the body of a man whose face and hands were completely burned, and who had a bullet hole in his forehead. The deceased was found at the El Rodadero outlet, among the underbrush, across from the Gaira district. This morning, 24 hours afterwards, another body in a similar condition was found at the foot of the hill on which lies the highway leading to El Rodadero. Authorities believe that this is a vendetta against criminal elements. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jun 77 p 9-A] 8926

COCAINE SEIZED--Authorities confiscated cocaine valued at 30 million pesos this morning along the border with Ecuador. The cocaine was carried by Ecuadorean citizen Jesus Ortiz Pinto in two suitcases. In addition, one German gun, three false passports and \$1,000 were confiscated. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jul 77 PA]

DRUG TRAFFICKERS' ARREST--Medellin--DAS agents captured drug peddlers Juan Paez and Luis Perez as they prepared to board a plane for Miami at the Olaya Herrera airport. The authorities discovered two kilos of cocaine hidden in a double-bottom valise. [Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Jul 77 PA]

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARREST--Guatemala City, 22 July--It has been officially announced that the Guatemalan police broke up here today a ring of international traffickers of cocaine, marihuana and other drugs. Five persons were arrested, identified as German citizens Bolkard Sriedrich, Ingridi Jenens, Brigitte Putz, Spaniard Ernesto Ignacio Aparicio, and Maria de Souza Leite, a Brazilian. The police believe that this group supplied drugs to Guatemala and other countries. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0118 GMT 23 Jul 77 PA]

CSO: 5300

CHILD DRUG ADDICT PROBLEM

Interviews With Children Addicted to Sniffing Glue

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 29 Jun 77 p 8-B

[Article by Genaro Gonzalez Gaucin of EL MANANA editorial staff: Children and Drug Addiction]

[Text] "I see monkeys, devils and evil things...I am thirsty..." The face of Jaime Martinez, age 12, looks tired. His look reminds us of a child who is sad because his mother scolded him. His dilated eyes, his white complexion fuse into an innocent look of neglect in the home...He is a child addicted to solvents, glue and industrial dyes.

Salvador Ortega Reyes, age 13, who shows the first signs of puberty, tells us a little more candidly, "When I look up at the sky, I see monstrous things ..., then I feel lighter...,when I place a bag over my head, I go around as if I were crazy..."

For 15 days, EL MANANA, the newspaper serving the people, has been investigating these children whom criminals have enticed to industrial glue addiction. Last Wednesday afternoon, we succeeded after making an intensive search along the banks of Rio Bravo. We had the following interviews:

Q--What is your name?

A--Jaime Martinez.

Q--How old are you?

A--I am 12 years old.

Q--Have you sniffed glue?

A--Yes.

Q--What do you feel and see when you sniff glue?

A--Monkeys or something, thirst, devils and bad things.

Q--Where do you sniff glue?

A--By the river...at a bridge post.

Q--Who gives you the glue?

A--We buy it.

Q--From whom?

A--From a man who comes by...

Q--Do you know with what business concern he is?

A--No.

Q--Do you have parents?

A--Yes, I do. But my mother is in Tijuana. My parents are divorced and I live with my grandmother.

Q--Are you in school?

A--I was in the fifth year at Venustiano Carranza School.

Q--How did you become a drug addict?

A--By watching others. They enticed me away from school.

These are the revealing words of a minor who for several years has been a drug addict. He is one of the horde who has fallen into the clutches of adults who, without thought of the wrong they do the children, have enticed these minors to destroy themselves physically and morally.

Another minor, Salvador Ortega Reyes, replied more candidly after listening to the previous boy.

Q--Have you sniffed industrial glue?

A--Yes.

Q--What do you feel?

A--As if...when I am very crazy, when I look up to the sky, I see monsters.

Q--What are your bodily sensations?

A--I just feel light. I am very excited [aguitado]. Then I put a bag over my head and I feel light.

Q--Who gives you the drug?

A--We buy it. We send for it an old man, a vagrant, a good-for nothing.

Q--Where do you sniff the drug?

A--Over there, at the bridge.

Q--Do you have parents?

A--I just have my mother. I live with her.

Q--Are you in school?

A--No.

Q--Doesn't your mother scold you?

A--She does not know.

Children who have been manipulated by men to engage in the worst activities, show us each day a sad picture of what they may be in the future if they are not rescued from the gutter. In this city, we have a Minors' Guardian Center, a Minors' Protection Agency and a Psychology Department in the system for the Development of Family Integration but none of these institutions have done anything serious to stop juvenile delinquency and drug addiction. Tomorrow we will publish an interview with Dr Mario Martinez Gonzalez who discloses criminal activities of merchants and parents. He discusses the operation of those institutions.

Struggle Against Drug Addiction of Minors

[Article by Genaro Gonzalez Gaucin of EL MANANA editorial staff: Rehabilitation of Children Who Sniff Industrial Glue]

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 30 Jun 77 p 1-B

[Text] Dr Mario Martinez Gonzalez, head of the Psychology Department of the system for Desarrollo Integral de la Familia, DIF [Development of Family Integration] spoke of cases of juvenile delinquents who have become drug addicts. He said, "We rehabilitate by physical treatment children who sniff industrial glue and other solvents; that is, occupational therapy. First we attempt to free the child's body of intoxication. Then we apply the 'Reality Principle'.

This is to induce the minor to coordinate his ideas by means of work."

Concerning the effects on the child's body of sniffing glue or other solvents, Dr Martinez Gonzalez explained, "The main reaction is thirst. Some children have told me, 'Trees become monsters and ask for water.' The addicts begin to lose their hearing, become shortsighted, their lungs do not seem to function properly and, worst of all, the children do not grow to normal height."

In reply to questions on several treatments for substitution of the drug, he said, "We provide group therapy [consejerias] based on effective aspects of a material and nutritional nature. In this treatment, we expect the minors themselves to **cooperate** by abstaining from that type of vice."

As to the detection of persons who promote or sell the industrial products, Dr Martinez Gonzalez said, "By chance or as a result of Secret Service Department investigations, we have discovered businesses, which I will not identify, where the owners themselves or clerks of hardware stores, lumber yards and other places sell by mistake to messengers Resistol 5,000, Pega Todo, solvents, aerosol and gasoline." As to these persons' guilt, he said, "We cannot say that they are directly guilty. Obviously, if these persons were to abstain from selling glue to minors, it would be very helpful..."

Concerning reports in publications that minors arrested in this city, who are hardened addicts of industrial solvents, are sent to Ciudad Mante or elsewhere in the republic and in regard to what has been done in this city for the children, Dr Martinez Gonzalez said, the Minor's Protection Agency which is under DIF has in Ciudad Victoria a state reformatory for minors. Unfortunately, we do not have a drug addict center in this state. I understand that in Piedras Negras there is one operating at full capacity. Several professions of this locality are interested in setting up a similar institution. However, time is required to implement the actual plans."

During his interview with EL MANANA, Dr Mario Martinez Gonzalez repeated the grave charges against parents made by these juvenile delinquents. He mentioned "Schools for Parents", the environment in which children are growing up and penal proceedings against parents who neglect their duties.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

TWO DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Jun 77 p 3-B

[Text] The State Judicial Police arrested yesterday morning Manuel Chavez Flores and Maria Teresa Cruz. They will be subjected to a series of investigations in this city.

They were detained in a hotel in Villa de Fuente, Coahuila, where they were acting in a suspicious manner. Several persons who were in their company succeeded in escaping when the police arrived.

Evidently, the arrest was in connection with drugs since both are notorious in the underworld.



Maria Teresa Cruz Arredondo. She was arraigned by State Judicial Police agents for investigation of several crimes against public health. (Foto Lombrana) [left photo]

Manuel Chavez Flores. He was arrested at the same time as Maria Teresa. He will be thoroughly investigated. Evidently, he was engaged in distributing drugs. (Foto Lombrana) [right photo]

8923

CS0: 5330

MEXICO

BRIEFS

APPOINTMENT OF CUSTOMS GUARD COMMANDERS--Reports from Customs circles say that the General Customs Directorate issued instructions that effective 1 July, Commander Jesus Avalos Ficachi will assume command here of the customs guard. He will replace Commander Felipe Garcia Segovia who will take over the command of the Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Customs Guard. The reports add that a telex signed by Guillermo Velazquez Herrera, director general of customs, issued these orders to the commanders of the customs guards of Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo, effective tomorrow, 1 July. After Avalos Ficachi takes over the command of the customs guard, announcements will be made of who will be appointed to the posts of second in command at present held by Commanders Angel Derli Gutierrez, Elias Martinez and Javier Vega. Rumors insist that perhaps Commander Angel Derli Gutierrez may continue in his present position. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 30 Jun 77 p 1-B] 8923

ARRESTS FOR INVESTIGATION OF DRUG USERS--Two homosexuals were arrested while high on toxic tablets which they had just taken. The PJE [State Judicial Police] will interrogate them exhaustively to ascertain where they acquired the psychotropic drugs. Last Friday night, a group of PJE agents patrolled the red-light district. They arrested the homosexuals Alfredo Becerra and Felipe Valadez. Both live in the Mexico apartment building in the red-light district. When they were arrested, they were very intoxicated and stupified by several toxic tablets they had just taken. They were taken to police headquarters and confined in cells there. Felipe Valadez and Alfredo Becerra are being interrogated exhaustively as to their acquisition of the toxic tablets because a gang of drug traffickers are thought to be operating there for some time without being discovered. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 24 Jun 77 p 2-A] 8923

FOUR HEROIN TRAFFICKERS IMPRISONED--Three persons whom the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] consider "fat cats" of drug trafficking were released last night. This is only a few days after they were captured in connection with other persons from whom 1 kg of heroin was seized. Official sources provided little information on the case. According to Roberto P Medina, the defense attorney, the release of the three aforementioned defendants was due to insufficient evidence at the end of the 72-hour constitutional limit in the Second District Court. The defense attorney said, "There was not sufficient evidence on which to issue an order of imprisonment against them so they were acquitted. How-

ever, Cayetano Hernandez Valencia, the secretary of the court's appeal board, as acting judge issued an order of imprisonment of the notorious drug trafficker Alejandro Pena Pena, Jose Zamarripa (for concealment), Fermin Larralde and Tiburcio Javier Gonzalez Ameida. All except the second man, are indicted of crimes against public health under several categories. One may recall that the PJF captured them when they found out that the men were drug traffickers and seized from them more than 1 kg of coffee colored heroin. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 24 Jun 77 p 2-A] 8923

FAILURE OF DRUG TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION--Carlos Xavier Elizondo Salinas, the prosecuting attorney, informed EL DIARIO, that in spite of continuous allegations that there is a growing drug traffic in Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, investigations have produced no positive results. Very few persons have been detained there with drugs in their possession. "We cannot be led by the yellow press but we investigate the accuracy of published reports. We strictly follow the guidance from the Attorney General's Office in the struggle against drug traffic and other federal crimes. However, fat cats have not been captured." Finally, EL DIARIO was informed that perhaps next month the Attorney General's Office will appoint a Federal Judicial Police agent to replace Carlos Arisa Sanvicente who was transferred to Mexico City. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Jun 77 p 3-A] 8923

DRUG DEN REOPENED--Scorpio Lounge was reopened. It is a disgraceful dive where marihuana, hard drugs, young women and minors are trafficked. Yesterday the municipal police were unable to inform the reporters why and who authorized the reopening of this brothel in the heart of the city on Calle Sexta between Herrera and Bustamante Streets adjacent to the afternoon paper EL GRAFICO. The police authorities believe the state government by means of the Matamoros Prosecuting Attorney's Office issued the authorization for its reopening. In November, Ignacio Escobedo Quintero, the police inspector, and Raul Garza Trevino, the second investigating attorney, personally closed it after confirming that Jose Luis Nesti Alvarez, the owner of the business, was a trafficker of underage women whom he perverted with hard drugs and marihuana. At the time, Garza Trevino told the press that as long as he is the second investigating attorney, he "would never allow the reopening of this shameful dive." He also requested the Second Penal Court judge to issue an arrest warrant for the owner of the business for the crime of corruption of minors. No Matamoros police officer has carried out to date this judicial order. Later, after the Scorpio Lounge had been closed, the municipal police captured inside the establishment a youth with several reefers and seized a light truck belonging to its owner because in the cab, the glove compartment and even in the body of the truck traces of marihuana were found. However, the establishment reopened in spite of the fact that the police and the city government had made an agreement with the public that all actual vice centers like Scorpio Lounge would be closed down and that all canteens, bars, liquor stores, cabarets and night clubs would be required to close daily at zero hours. [Text] [Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 30 Jun 77 p 12-A] 8923

SINALOA TRAFFICKING DROPPED 80 PERCENT--Mexico, 19 June--Alfonso Calderon Velar, the state governor, said today that Operacion Condor [garble: Candor] had reduced drug trafficking in Sinaloa by 80 percent. He said that the more than 100,000 hectares of land previously planted with drugs would be incorporated in the alliance for production. To prevent the high regions of Sinaloa, including the mountainous region and the mountain range, from again becoming the operations center of drug traffickers, President Jose Lopez Portillo authorized economic support for those regions including an infrastructure and small and medium sized industries. Under the programs presented to the president, Sinaloa will incorporate 1.2 million hectares which will make it an important factor in meeting the food requirements of the Mexican population. [Excerpt] Saltillo EL HERALDO in Spanish 20 Jun 77 p 1-B] 8923

ARREST OF POSSESSOR OF TOXIC TABLETS--The notorious drug addict Irma Ramirez is again in the hands of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. She was captured on Calles Salinas Puga and Zaragoza with toxic tablets in her possession. When the woman saw the members of the patrol, she attempted to throw the alkaloids into a lot but she did not have time to do so since one of the agents took from her the package containing eight tablets of Neo Percodan and some pills also listed as toxic. Since Irma previously was involved in drug cases she was turned over to the Federal Judicial Police for investigation of who supplied her with the alkaloids. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO 22 Jun 77 p 3-B] 8923

AIRPLANE FOR USE AGAINST TRAFFICKING--Alfredo Aaron Juarez Jimenez, the agency coordinator of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office in the states of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Tamaulipas, was successful during his visit to the Attorney General's Office. Oscar Flores Sanchez, the attorney general, authorized the assignment of a Cessna light plane for use in the struggle against drugs in three states. Juarez Jimenez reported this. He said he had visited the three states to inspect the agencies of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office and the work being done by the Federal Judicial Police. He met with several civilian and military officials to request their help in the campaign against drug trafficking. In view of the shortages in the agencies of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, he went to the national capital to request better and more efficient equipment. His requests were approved by the attorney general who gave him a light plane for the search of marihuana and poppy fields. The Deputy Attorney General in Monterrey. Juarez Jimenez also reported that yesterday afternoon, Manuel Rosales Miranda, the deputy attorney general, arrived in Monterrey to inspect the agencies of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, to supervise the PJF work and to hold meetings with the federal prosecuting attorneys. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 10 Jun 77 p 2-A] 8923

OWNER OF MARIHUANA ARRESTED--PJF[Federal Judicial Police] agents detached to the state of Colima arrested Marcial Tapia Villa who confessed that he owned the marihuana recently seized by PJF agents at Guardados de Abajo from four

men who were ready to sell it. The PJF had arrested Manuel Diaz Caballero, Cornelio Guzman Preciado, Adolfo Rios Moreno and Jose Garza Trevino. The first two had transported almost 1.5 tons of marihuana from Tecoman, Colima to Guadalupe de Abajo in two trips. Adolfo Rios Moreno was to be the liaison between the transporters of the drug and the American buyers. The operation was not completed because the PJF captured them. During interrogation, Manuel Diaz Caballero confessed that the drugs belonged to Marcial Tapia Villa who lived in Colima, Colima. From the information given by Diaz Caballero, the PJF located and arrested Tapia Villa who on Tuesday was transferred under proper custody to this city. He was immediately placed at the disposal of the Second District Court judge. Yesterday, he was brought to this court to make his preparatory declaration on the charges against him at the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. Childishly, the presumed drug trafficker denied any connection with drug trafficking even though he had declared so to the Colima agent of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 9 Jun 77 p 3-B] 8923

TAMPICO PJF CHIEF ARRESTED--At the local airport, customs arrested the chief of the Tampico PJF [Federal Judicial Police] and two other persons, one of whom is an American. Their light plane was confiscated. It was going to be loaded with contraband of a nature undetermined as of yesterday. At the customs office, much discretion is being shown in this case because this is a very sensitive affair with broad implications. The only information provided was that the Tampico PJF chief was arrested. The Attorney General's Office was notified. The legal section of customs is investigating the Tampico PJF chief and the two others who were arrested. Yesterday morning, the accused started making their respective declarations. Customs personnel are guarding the plane at this city's airport. The customs administrator promised for today a complete report on the case, the type of contraband seized and its value. Yesterday, the pilot, the supposed owner of the contraband and the Tampico PJF chief remained in custody at the customs office. Unofficially, sources connected with customs reported that the plane probably was used to transport arms or munitions. This is why the affair is being dealt with in such secrecy. The Attorney General's Office always intervenes directly in this type of case. Today the investigation will be deepened. [Text] [Matamoros EL BRAVO in Spanish 17 May 77 p 8-A] 8923

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER SENTENCED--Official sources reported that the Second District Court Judge imposed severe sentences on two drug traffickers who for a long time smuggled and distributed drugs in the port of Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Raul Martinez Silva and Margarito Galaviz Gonzalez were found guilty of a crime against public health under the categories of possession and transporting of marihuana. Each was sentenced to 7 years 2 months imprisonment and fined 9,660 pesos or 120 additional days of imprisonment. The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] captured them during the early hours of 3 March 1976 at Reynosa, Tamaulipas. When the PJF agents learned that Raul Martinez exported marihuana, they arrested and investigated him. They took him to his residence at 1030 Chihuahua Street in Reynosa where he turned over six istle sacks of marihuana. He confessed that for a long time, with the help of Margarito Galaviz Gonzalez, he had smuggled the drug into the United States. He hid it in several compartments in the vehicles used to transport the marihuana. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 9 Jun 77 p 3-B] 8923

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

BRIEFS

"FRENCH CONNECTION" HEAD SENTENCED--Three people accused of forming the Marseilles branch of the real-life "French connection" drug ring were sentenced to lengthy prison terms yesterday on heroin smuggling charges. Five other people were given suspended sentences for alleged complicity and one was acquitted. They were arrested after French Customs seized a yacht with 800lb of heroin aboard in 1972. Dominique Giudicelli, 54, who was sentenced to 17 years, was alleged to have run the Marseilles operation. Francis Vanverbergh, 28, known as "Francis the Belgian" and Maximilien "The Mechanic" Antolin, 39, were given 14 and 12 years respectively. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 2 Jul 77 p 6]

CSO: 5320

'AGENT PROVOCATEUR' CLAIM BY POLICEMAN ON DRUGS CHARGE

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 12 Jul 77 p 2

[Text] One of two police officers among five men accused of being involved in smuggling 100,000-pounds-worth of cannabis told Customs officers he was working as an "agent-provocateur" hoping to smash a drug ring, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Norman James, 30, a police sergeant, also claimed that his activities were "purely practical police work," said Mr Michael Underhill, QC, prosecuting.

James is alleged to have told customs officers he was not connected with the import of the drugs adding: "It looks to me as though I have been set up good and proper."

James, stationed at West Bromwich, Staffs; Thomas Keogh, 30, a detective sergeant, of George Road, Erdington, Birmingham; Andrew Thomas Chatwin, 33, of Ashes Road, Oldbury, West Midlands; and Fazal Hussain, 50, and Gulam Hussain, 50, both of Ninevah Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, all deny avoiding the import prohibition on 160 lb of cannabis.

Fashion Firm Labels

Mr Underhill said the cannabis, worth between 60,000 pounds and 100,000 pounds, arrived at Birmingham airport on December 30 aboard a British Airways flight from Paris. It was contained in parcels addressed to a Birmingham fashion firm and described as "hand made goods."

He said the prosecution alleged that Fazal Hussain, who went to Pakistan on November 29, made arrangements for the cannabis to be sent and that Gulam Hussain, a native of Muscat, was the link between sellers in Pakistan and buyers in Britain.

Mr Underhill said Customs authorities had received information about the drugs and in the week before they were collected from the airport on January 8 they watched people thought to be involved.

They saw various meetings between the police officers, the other accused and a man named Younis who was not in the dock.

Five Arrested

The packages were eventually collected from the airport by Chatwin who, the prosecution said, was the driver in the operation. The five accused were arrested.

Mr Underhill said that when interviewed by Customs officers James said he had used Younis as a drugs informant for several years and said his contacts in the field were "unbelievable."

James said he received information from Younis about the drugs. His relations with the Customs authorities at the time were poor because they had not paid Younis 1,000 pounds he had been promised.

James said: "I now appreciate that what I was doing was wrong but frustration had got the better of judgment. To be able to arrest a whole team of smugglers as we have done before was too much of a temptation."

The hearing which is expected to last three weeks was adjourned until today.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

POLICE DRUG HAUL STOLEN--Detectives are investigating the theft of 900 lb of cannabis, valued at 432,000 pounds from a Scotland Yard storeroom in Wapping, East London. The cannabis had been previously seized by detectives in raids going back over several years. All drugs seized by police are kept in the heavily guarded storeroom at Wapping until they are produced as evidence in court cases. They are then destroyed. But several months ago, a provincial police force raided a house and discovered 100 lb of cannabis which currently sells on the black market at 30 pounds an ounce. When the drug was examined it was discovered that at some stage it had been checked for fingerprints, which meant it must have been in police possession before. Later, it was found to have come from the Scotland Yard storeroom and the present investigation, headed by Det. Chief Supt. Tom Lamont of the Complaints Investigation Bureau, formerly A10, began. Two police officers have already been suspended as the C.I.B. inquiries continue. [Text] [London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 17 Jul 77 p 1]

CSO: 5320

END